



VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Johnson County

How To Reach Us

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February 2011

Volume 61
Number 7

Since 1920, the League of Women Voters has been a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Saturday, February 5 General Meeting Atonement Lutheran Church - 9948 Metcalf

8:30 a.m. - Socializing
9 - 11 a.m. - Program
11 a.m. - noon - Board Meeting

“Politicians and Campaign Money: What’s Fair Disclosure?”

Presentation by

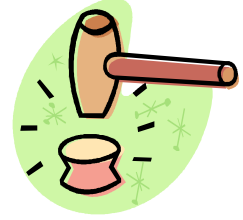
Carol E. Williams, Executive Director, Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission

Panelists:

Scott Schwab, Kansas House of Representatives, 49th District, and chair, House Committee on Elections and Ethics
Pat Colloton, Kansas House of Representatives, 28th District, and co-sponsor of the 2007 Kansas Informed Voter Act.

We look forward to seeing you!

March 5 meeting
Health Care: Where Do We Stand?



President's Message

The general membership, with 44 members attending, started the new year with a meeting to recommend areas of study for the next year. The State League had asked us to either retain or drop current state positions. The membership voted to retain all current LWVK position statements with a caveat that a review of all these position statements be made. LWVNational adopted two studies for the biennium at convention this past June: the Federal Role in Public Education and Privatization of Government Functions. As I understand it, we are not required to participate in either of these studies.

The membership offered no proposals for the study of new issues or the development of a statement of position, but they suggested many ideas for informational programs. Among them were redistricting, voter ID issues, solid waste disposal changes, health care legislation, security of Social Security, public education and a report on Johnson County's 20-year plan. Our League is always looking for fascinating and informative programs, and the list contains many more suggested topics.

All of our members should be aware of the LWVK's challenge and opposition to a proposed mandate by the newly-elected Secretary of State. The intention is to make Kansas the model for all states by requiring photo ID and proof-of-citizenship in order to vote. Janis McMillen, director of the LWVUS who represented LWVK and Holly Weatherford, member of the ACLU, spoke to the editorial staff of *The Kansas City Star* regarding this specific issue. A January 20 editorial addressed voter ID and the considerable costs related to this proposed law. I hope that as a member of the League of Women Voters of Johnson County you will support and back the League's opposition to this unnecessary mandate. (See pages 6-7-8 of this newsletter for background information on Voter ID and the Kansas League's response.)

Thanks to all who participated in our January planning session. I look forward to another year of learning and working together.

Harriett Anderson

Kansas Leapfrogs into Early MRI Training Round

Watch out, Northeast U.S. Leaguers! Here come the Kansans!

Due to the efforts of LWVK president Ernestine Krehbiel, four Kansas Leaguers will get trained on membership and leadership earlier than planned. They will join others from the NE US for intensive training by national LWVUS experts.

It's all part of LWVUS' new program on "Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI—no, not the medical term) Building Leadership Skills." Its membership portion targets recruiting into a local league new retirees and community leaders.

And its leadership portion provides skills for long-range planning and achievements. That includes community visibility, partnering with other groups and working with the media. LWVUS expects to have trained all state leagues by 2012.

In each state, up to four Leaguers are trained as coaches. For Kansas they are:

- Kay Hale, Lawrence-Douglas County
- Linda Johnson, Chair, Leavenworth
- Dena Lyons, Wichita Metro
- Ellen Miller, Johnson County

Training will likely be conducted in Philadelphia on March 25-28. Upon returning home, coaches will work with that state's leagues on membership and leadership, using LWVUS tools provided in training. The goal is for each local League to grow its membership 5 percent per year. Monthly teleconferences (paid for by LWVUS) between a national coach and the state coaches will keep things on track.

This MRI program is another way that LWVUS supports state and local leagues. Thanks to our national leaders, including our own Janis McMillen, for their vision.

Ellen Miller

Making Democracy Work Award

The League of Women Voters invites you to nominate an outstanding community leader for our annual Making Democracy Work Award. The League celebrates leaders who have envisioned a way to improve our community and who have mobilized others to work collaboratively to affect positive change. The Making Democracy Work Award will honor one such individual who has, in the League tradition, helped make our local governments strong, vibrant, fair and responsive to the needs of all members of our community.

Nominations are open to any individual who has been a vital part of the work force and who has contributed to our community in a meaningful way. Nominees may be nominated by a friend or colleague, or the nominees can apply themselves. A nomination form is posted on our website (www.lwjoco.org) and in the January VOTER. **Please note the deadline is February 1, 2011.**

The winner will be presented at our Johnson County League of Women Voters' Annual Meeting on May 7, 2011. Please note that the winner must be available to receive the award on May 7. We believe that there is no greater tribute that we can make than to honor a leader who continues to demonstrate commitment, leadership and a passion for civic improvement.

Carisa de Anda

League Offers Essay Contest for High School Seniors

For the second year, the League of Women Voters is conducting an essay contest for high school seniors in Johnson County high schools. Each entrant is asked to submit a 500 word answer to the question, "If you were registering an 18-year old to vote, what rationale would you give as to why it is vital for our democracy to exercise the right to vote?"

Schools have been sent the rules of the contest so that entries may be received no later than February 15, 2011. The judging will be done by a panel of League members. As the judges read the essays, they will not know the gender or school represented by each entry. The prize for the winner will be a \$1,000 scholarship sent to the college where the essayist plans to enroll. We will invite the winner to read the winning essay at our annual Making Democracy Work Awards Program on Saturday, May 7, 2011.

Harriet Duff

International Relations Committee

The International Relations Committee will again host a Great Decisions discussion group. The first meeting will be on Tuesday, February 1 in the double meeting room of the Central Resource Library from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The topics for the eight meetings (first and third Tuesdays) are Rebuilding Haiti, National Security, Horn of Africa, Responding to the Financial Crisis, Germany, Sanctions and Nonproliferation, the Caucasus, and Global Governance.

To order the discussion manual, contact the International Relations Council (816-221-4204, <http://www.irckc.org>). Cost is \$18 if picked up at the IRC office, 911 Main St, KCMO, or \$21 delivered.

Nan Wilson

Let's Talk Issues

Let's Talk Issues is a public service program produced by Johnson County Community College and co-sponsored by JCCC, *The Kansas City Star* and the League of Women Voters of Johnson County. Our fall programs included Poverty in Johnson County and Review of Election Results.

Previous programs may be accessed through the college website: <http://video.jccc.edu/>. If you have Time Warner cable channels, you will find the programs on channel 17 at 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 2, March 2 and April 6. the topic of the February 2 program will be "The New Legislature Begins." Although panelists have not been finalized for the February program, you are sure to find food for thought and abundant information from this discussion.

The March and April programs are yet to be announced. President Harriett Anderson and President-Elect Harriet Duff recently met with JCCC Community Services Program Director Linda Cole and Kansas City Star veteran reporter Jim Sullinger to map out these upcoming programs.

LWVJOCO History On-line

Thanks to Mark Adamson, who was also responsible for scanning the photographs, our League history from 1952 through 2010 is now posted on our website, www.lwjoco.org. Part I, written by Dorothy Ballard, recounts our beginning as the Shawnee Mission League and continues through 1977. Part II, written by Nan Wilson and Diane Kuhn, covers the next 32 years. Our legacy is a proud one, and our influence in shaping the general welfare of our community is impressive.

Diane Kuhn

Naturalization Ceremonies

Naturalization Ceremonies are held at the Federal Courthouse in KCK at 5th and State usually on the last Friday of every month. The ceremony begins at 1:30 and lasts about 45 minutes. We then register the new citizens to vote. This takes about an hour. If you would like to attend and participate in this moving event, please contact Virginia Johnson (1-770-757-2136 or johnson.virginia@yahoo.com). Please mark your calendar for the upcoming Naturalization Ceremonies.

- February 25 Magistrate Judge James O. O'Hara
- March Court off-site (LWV not involved)
- April 29 Judge Carlos Murguia
- May Court off-site (LWV not involved)

Virginia Johnson

Board Briefs January 8 board meeting

- Program topics for the March meeting will be Health Care and for April Civil Discourse.
- Send annual reports starting in March to Harriet Duff.
- Ellen Miller and Elaine Giessel called for volunteers to help disperse information to residents about the Johnson County Environmental Solid Waste plan. At the next general meeting, they will present three levels of support for the county plan:
 1. become a public speaking presenter
 2. deliver printed material provided by the county to organizations
 3. hand out printed material at summer festivals.
- President Harriett Anderson urged members to write to our local legislators to share thoughts about the state budget. Write to John Vratil, Terry Huntingdon, and Pat Colloton.
- The Board approved the following for the Budget Committee: Nancy Martin, chair; Ann Sanders, Edna Badninsky. Current Treasurer Candy Birch will serve as advisor.
- Carisa De Anda and Jodie Dietz will manage the upcoming LWVJC Facebook site.
- Tana Schroeder is our newest member with our total membership now 136.
- Deadline for Making Democracy Work nominations is February 1.

Polly Swafford

League Webmaster Seeks Assistance

In 2004, Mark Adamson set up our League website (www.lwvjoco.org), and he continues to maintain it with updated information. The website is a valuable asset for our League.

Mark would like to work with someone who is interested in the site and willing to do the primary job of maintaining it. He will offer background information and assist whenever necessary.

What computer skills are required? The site is written in HTML 4 language. If necessary, a short course at New Horizons or JCCC would bring a person "up to speed." If you are interested, please contact Harriett Anderson (hjanderson@kc.rr.com or 422-7704).

League Needs PA Equipment Manager

Thanks to Bob Jefferis, who has faithfully brought the PA equipment to our monthly League meetings and set up the speakers and microphones. Everything fits on a two-wheeled cart for easy transport. Bob has announced that he is retiring from this duty. If you would be willing to assume this job, please contact Bob Jefferis (631-4441, jeffbob@everestkc.net) or Harriett Anderson (hjanderson@kc.rr.com, 422-7704).

Save the Date

LEAGUE DAY AT THE CAPITOL, MARCH 24, 2010.

League's annual Day at the Capitol is traditionally a time when Leaguers from around the state gather in Topeka to learn about current legislation, meet with legislators, and re-connect with friends in other Kansas Leagues. Mark your calendar for Thursday, March 24.

Member Spotlight: Frank Neff

Frank Neff was drawn to the League of Women Voters because “The LWV is active—they have an influence over what happens in the legislature.”

Frank and his wife, Joan, have three grown children: Vicki, Cassi, and Clayt. He received his BA and MS degrees from Indiana University and an Ed.D. in Group Development from Columbia University. He is retired from the Institute for Human Development at UMKC as Associate Professor Emeritus of Education. The Institute is a University Affiliated Facility, one of 67 national University Centers for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), a program initiated and funded in part by the federal government.”

In 2000, Frank became aware that the LWVUS was to review its position on international trade agreements, about which he had been concerned for over six years. Janis McMillen and Delores Furtado were becoming co-chairs of the LWVJC and invited him to become a Board member. He remembers with a smile, “I was the token male.”

Frank has spoken before a number of organizations about the impact on local communities of the international free trade agreements. When the World Trade Organization met in Seattle, Frank was there to demonstrate for changes in the regulations of the trade agreements. He sees results of the free trade agreements leading to excessively high profits for corporations and loss of jobs for workers, not only in other countries but also in the U.S.

In 1997, Frank spent a week in Mexico working with members of the Cross Border Network for Justice and Solidarity. They helped local workers build a two-room school near Nuevo Laredo

Becoming active on the Johnson County League’s International Committee, Frank served as chair of the Immigration Study. His goal for the committee was “to prepare a proposal for a national study of immigration by the LWVUS.” Seventy-four Leagues were working on the Immigration topic at the same time, and the JC study took 3 years. First, to establish a proposal; second, the national convention to appoint a committee to establish a set of questions for each League to answer, and third, LWVJC and others to reach consensus on the questions. The LWVUS did vote to conduct a national study on Immigration.

After 9/11, he joined a local group which was using ideas from the Bill of Rights Defense Committee. They worked to protect citizen rights which they felt were endangered by the USA PATRIOT Act. The city of Lawrence, Kansas, was influenced by a similar group of citizens to vote to become a Sanctuary City, which was accomplished in a resolution passed by the city council. Frank, and the group here, were soon protesting on the Plaza and meeting with members of the city council of Kansas City, Missouri, and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas to pass similar resolutions, which those governments did.

Today Frank maintains his interest in international trade, but he’s decided to concentrate his activities on supporting and improving the new health care law (Protecting Patients and Accountability Care Act, PPACA), which has made it possible for up to 50 million more Americans to be covered, including young adults up to 26 years of age on their parents’ insurance. He is working with Medicare for All Mo-Kan, an organization which seeks to persuade the public to learn more about the current health care law by attending rallies, visiting with and sending letters to local Congress members.

When the LWVJC supports an issue, Frank Neff is there. He affirms, “It’s important to take action by expressing one’s ideas about current issues to our legislators.”



Frank Neff stands in front of a wall hanging quilted by his daughter Cassi.

Polly Swafford

Kansas LWV to Challenge Need for Voter Photo ID and Documented Citizenship Proof

The League of Women Voters opposes proposed changes to Kansas voter registration and poll ID laws in Kansas. There has been NO proof that Kansas has a problem with fraudulent voting. The birth certificate requirement to register to vote violates the federal law, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 — so ruled the US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals last week. Other courts have ruled that the photo ID would have to be supplied with state tax monies for those who could not afford it, and this would require an expensive and unwanted growth of state bureaucracy to monitor the state sanctioned ID “pass cards” for voting. Even if a person has been voting in the same place for many years, the law proposed by Secretary Kobach would require new proofs. This is unnecessary growth of government at a time of financial crisis in the state.

The League supports full voting participation by all eligible American citizens and opposes efforts to create new barriers that block citizen voter participation. The League of Women Voters of the US asserts that this claim of voter fraud in Kansas is a false claim; what is more, it could disenfranchise thousands of eligible voters.

At this time of VERY tight state budgets with thousands of programs being cut and highway repairs left undone, of high unemployment when Kansans cannot afford new taxes to pay for state issued voter ID cards, when our voting laws to prevent fraud have been working very well, when for the last five years Kansans have cast 10 million votes and there has been only one prosecuted case of voter fraud (he voted in Kansas AND Missouri), WE DO NOT NEED TO CHANGE THE LAW.

The following statistics reflect those individuals that do not have photo identification:

- 11 percent of Kansans
- 18 percent of Americans over 65 (6 million)
- 25 percent of African Americans
- 10 percent of people with disabilities
- 15 percent of low income voters Source: *NYU and Brennen Center Survey* & *Center for Policy Alternative*

Kansas cannot afford this – it is a plan to make Kansas a model for unnecessary laws based on baseless fear of non-existent voter fraud slipping past KS Secretaries of State from both political parties.

About one million Kansas women who took their husbands’ names when they married would not have a birth certificate that matched their current name without having to go to further effort to prove citizenship.

The LWVK has joined a coalition of interested good government groups to try to educate citizens and legislators as to the error of adding more government bureaucracy and expense for a non-issue in Kansas.

What is wrong with having to prove you are a citizen to be able to register to vote? Just show a birth certificate?

All married women who took their husbands’ names would not have birth certificates matching their current names. Many elderly do not have birth certificates as home births did not always get the official state certificate. To document that you were born in the US when you say you were, you would have to get three people who were alive at the time, lived in the town where you lived and can vouch that you were indeed born then and there. In order to be fair, would all voters have to show this or only new ones? If only new ones, what about the so-called “frauds” we are told have been a problem at our polls before who will now be “grandfathered in”?

What is wrong with having to show an ID? Doesn’t everybody have one?

Not everyone has ID that meets the requirements of some states. Indeed, ID requirements disproportionately affect the elderly, young people, racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and the poor.

- Survey results indicate 18 percent American citizens age 65 and above do not have current government-issued photo ID. Using 2010 census estimates, this amounts to more than 65,000 Kansas senior citizens. According to the survey, African-American citizens also disproportionately lack photo identification. Twenty-five percent of African-American voting-age citizens have no current government-issued photo ID, compared to eight percent of white voting-age citizens.
- According to disability advocates, nearly 10 percent of the 40 million Americans with disabilities do not have any form of state-issued identification.
- Low income people are caught by this requirement -- 15 percent of voting-age American citizens earning less than \$35,000 per year do not have a valid government-issued photo ID.

Source: [*NYU and Brennen Center Survey*](#)

The photo voter ID has passed court muster in some other states, so what is the big deal here?

The US Court of Appeals has already ruled the similar Arizona law unconstitutional. Last week, a decision by a panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found that the law requiring voters to prove their citizenship while registering contradicts a provision of the National Voter Registration Act and is therefore unconstitutional. That federal law, requires the voter to swear under penalty of perjury when filling out a mail in voter registration card, which is what we have here in Kansas. We also use either drivers license or social security numbers on voter registration in Kansas.

The Indiana court has ruled that if photo ID is required, then the state must pay for it. Kansas can not afford to pay for the bureaucracy and expenditure for photo voter IDs. The Kansas budget shortfall for next fiscal year is already over one-half of a billion dollars.

What if the state pays for the ID? Isn't that sufficient? No.

Costs can be a significant barrier to obtaining a photo ID. Even when the ID itself is free, there are hidden costs such as transportation to various agencies and fees related to acquiring supporting documents like birth certificates.

Support for these programs would be subject to the mercy of the annual appropriations process. To receive a passport the total cost can be \$97. Birth certificate costs vary by state. Costs include fees to the states as well as time off work. Married women would need marriage documents as well as birth certificate to match names.

- Kansas already has a commonsense voter identification law that ensures that eligible voters are who they say they are on Election Day.
- In the last five years, Kansans have cast over 10 million ballots in elections and in that time there have been only six allegations of voter fraud. Only ONE was a true fraud case - someone who voted in both KS and MO.
- At a time when legislators are trying to pass a state budget, it is irresponsible to add this unnecessary legislation that will cost taxpayers to “fix” an issue that doesn't exist. It might even require raising taxes to get funds.
- To attempt to pass this legislation would be costly, time consuming. Legislators have REAL problems on which to spend their time – not this non-issue.
- Nationwide about 11 percent of all voters and as many as **200,000 Kansas'** eligible voters – mostly elderly, disabled or poor voters -- lack the government issued photo ID that this law would require Kansans to present at the polls. Even students who are legal residents or people with expired drivers licenses would have difficulty.
- There have been no documented instances of in-person voter fraud in Kansas and adopting an overly-restrictive, burdensome law here in Kansas does not make sense. The state is over one-half billion dollars short for the coming fiscal year already. Spending millions to “fix” a problem that doesn't exist is absurd!
- Birth certificates DO NOT MATCH the current name of a Kansas married woman who has taken her husband's name. There are approximately one million in Kansas who would have to go to much more trouble to prove citizenship.
- Costs to a citizen can be a significant barrier to obtaining a photo ID. Even when the ID itself is free, there are hidden costs such as transportation to various agencies and fees related to acquiring supporting documents like birth certificates and marriage licenses for women with husbands' last names.
- A copy of a Kansas birth certificate costs \$15 and a current passport can cost between \$85 and \$145 (From the U.S. Department of State http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/fees/fees_837.html) depending on how quickly you need it. America does not believe that a voter should have to pay money to vote. To get other documents like copies of marriage licenses costs more.
- Elections cannot be fair if eligible voters are not allowed to vote.

Information provided by LWV Kansas

Statement from LWV of Kansas President Ernestine Krehbiel

Topeka, KS, January 19—League of Women Voters of Kansas President Ernestine Krehbiel issued the following statement in reference to the proposed legislation presented by Secretary of State Kobach that would change registration and voting laws in Kansas:

"The League supports full voting participation by all eligible American citizens and opposes efforts to create new barriers that block citizen voter participation. All evidence shows that Kansas voting laws are working to stop voter fraud. While Kansans have cast over ten million votes in the last five years, out of six allegations of voter fraud, only one was worthy of being prosecuted in that same five years. One of ten million!"

The League of Women Voters commends the legislators who have indicated that they understand that Kansas cannot afford an ill-advised, expensive experiment just to model voter fraud laws for other states when all evidence shows that the Kansas laws are working. Kansas cannot cut more from the starved state funding to pay for unneeded photo IDs for indigent voters—but courts have ruled they must if such a state photo ID law is passed. Disabled and elderly may not have such IDs already. What is more, over one million Kansas women who took their husbands' names will need more than a birth certificate to prove citizenship to register as the names will not match for voter registration. Many elderly do not have such birth certificates. The current signature system works. The National Voter Registration Act (1993) and the Help America Vote Act demonstrate this nation's commitment to increasing voter registration—not discouraging citizens from voting. We stand with the Kansas Voter Coalition to protect voter rights."

Help on Legislative Issues for LWV of Kansas

Wanted: Someone interested in the issue of abolishing the Kansas Death Penalty; to be available to receive email news from the Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty. We came close last session so we need someone to stay on top of the issue by email to let us know when a bill is introduced or is going to have a hearing in a legislative committee. Interested member would work at own computer. Contact LWVK president, Ernestine Krehbile LWVK (316-652-9229 or ekrehbiel@cox.net)

Redistricting

The Kansas Legislature will begin the redistricting process this session. If you would like to learn about the process, please see the January 2111 *Kansas Voter* for information. It is available online (www.lwvk.org).

OBSERVER CORPS REPORTS

Lenexa City Council January 4 meeting

- Approval was given for an audio-visual system installation agreement with Harvest Productions, Inc. for audio-visual improvements to the Lenexa Conference Center. This space was renovated in the 1990s, and the current technology is in need of an upgrade to meet the needs of the businesses and social groups utilizing the conference center.
- "Safe House" signage for the Lenexa fire departments to be discussed at a future council meeting.

Sheri Potter

Shawnee Mission School Board January 11 meeting

The meeting was cancelled due to weather.

Virginia Johnson

Johnson County Board of County Commissioners January 13 meeting

This was the first Board meeting following the election/installation of new County Commissioners. The current Board members: Ed Eilert, Chair; Ed Peterson, District 1; Jim Allen, District 2; David Lindstrom, District 3; Jason Osterhaus, District 4; Michael Ashcraft, District 5 and Calvin Hayden, District 6.

Public Comments:

- One gentleman affiliated with a north Olathe group (NOlathe.net) offered three requests to the commissioners: 1) to heed the population changes more closely when re-districting commission district boundaries, based on his perception that there is too much representation from the city of Overland Park; 2) requested the Commission to be mindful of United Nations Agenda 21, ICLEI, which deals with local environmental initiatives and 3) expressed dissatisfaction with a past Board decision that “supported illegal immigration” by opposing a bill in the Kansas legislature that addressed the issue of illegal immigrants living and working in Kansas.
- A second member of the public expressed his concerns about budget growth in the county and quoted information from Americans for Prosperity and the Kansas Policy Institute that requests state government to be more responsible to Kansas taxpayers when developing the state budget.
- Mark Greene, a member of Johnson County’s Transit Council, noted that the Transit Council returned – without comment - the County Commission’s proposed budget regarding county transit programs. The basis for not “approving” the Board’s budget recommendations was primarily due to severe cuts to the JO Special Edition. Special Edition buses are dedicated primarily to elderly, disabled and low-income residents, most all of whom are unable to drive or to afford an automobile.

Items of Business:

- Following a presentation by representatives from the local NAACP Chapter, the Board declared January 17 as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Items on the Action Agenda included:
- Appointment of Commissioner David Lindstrom (District 3) to serve as Vice-chair for the coming year;
- Approval of the Commissioners' representatives to the newly formed Charter Commission. Among their eight appointments, one member, Jean Wise, is a member of our League and served on the last Charter Commission 10 years ago – when that Commission recommended: 1) expansion of the Board from 5 to 7 Commissioners, with one being elected at-large to serve as Chair; 2) make the County Treasurer and Count Clerk appointed rather than elected positions; and 3) elect Commissioners on a non-partisan basis (previously candidates ran as members of a political party). If you recall, our League was very active in supporting the last Charter Commission’s recommendations by developing our well-known “YES YES YES” campaign, complete with yard signs.
- County Manager's report included: 1) the very recent appointment of Overland Park Judge Karen Arnold Burger (a League member!) to the Kansas Court of Appeals, and 2) the fact that Johnson was selected by the National Criminal Justice Coordinators Council to be in the inaugural group of newly formed Network of Criminal Justice Councils. (Note: Through a grant initiated by United Community Services of Johnson County, our county has been the recipient of a grant to serve as a national model for developing this network of County Criminal Justice groups for the purpose of sharing ideas and successes among like-minded groups across the country.

Janis McMillen

Olathe School Board January 6 meeting

Board Members: Rita Ashley, Dr. Debora Daniels (President), Kevin P. Gilmore, Amy Martin, Harlan Parker, Mike Poland, Linda Wilhelm

- Received an update on the Construction Projects funded by the 2007 bond issue. The district has been working with the City of Olathe on traffic reconfiguration at several schools. The total of the projects completed so far have been under budget and on time.
- Was briefed on the Special Education piece of the school finance formula. Rather than funding based on student count, as with other formula weightings, this calculation is based on teacher and paraprofessional count. The Maintenance of Effort Mandate requires that districts maintain “local effort” year to year, which means either gross funding or per pupil spending.
- Recognized the contributions of the Olathe Optimist and Rotary Clubs to the school district.
- Discussed ways to encourage citizen advocacy on issues of school finance. The state has once again been late with the payments due January 1st and is looking at a potential \$500 million plus deficit compared to last year.

Connie Richards

Wyandotte County Unified Government Commission

January 6 meeting

- Planning and Zoning had four separate sections: Special Use Permit Applications, Plan Review Applications and Miscellaneous Planning and Zoning. Planning and Zoning Non-consent Agenda. All items were approved except for one item that was held over until the Planning and Zoning meeting on January 27, 2011. A total of nine items were approved.
- Regular Board of Commissioners meeting. Under the Consent Agenda, they approved a plat of KCKCC Development at 56th and Leavenworth Road, being developed by Kansas City, Kansas Community College.
- Two public hearings were held and two ordinances were approved. One established a Community Improvement District (CID) and the other created a Transportation Development District. Both are for financing parking spaces for Sporting Kansas City (The Wizards).
- Standing Committees' Agenda: A proposed ordinance would repeal the current all-terrain vehicle ordinance. The new ordinance would allow the operation of all-terrain vehicles, micro utility trucks, work-side utility wenches and golf carts on city streets with a speed limit of 30 miles per hour or less. This did not pass. The vote was a tie vote 5-5, and the mayor cast the deciding vote not to approve the ordinance. Most of the objections centered on the all-terrain vehicle use on the city streets. This was presented to come into agreement with new state regulations. The Public Works and Safety Standing Committee had voted unanimously to forward this to the full commission with no recommendation.
- Two Resolutions passed. One authorized the 2011 sanitary sewer improvements in an amount not to exceed \$700,000, plus capitalized interest and cost of issuance. The second authorized the offering for sale of approximately \$45,148,422. of municipal temerity notes and approximately \$22,861,736 of general obligation improvement bonds.
- The Commissioners' Agenda: Approved travel to San Antonio by Commissioner Cooley to attend the American Correctional Assn. Conference Jan. 28-Feb. 2 (at no cost to the city).
- Friends of Grinter House presented the 4th annual Wyandotte County Heritage Award to Betty Gibson, a local resident who has been very much involved in helping to develop and maintain the history of the local area, especially the Turner district.

Pat Yingst and Marilyn Bynum

Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees

JCCC was recently cited as an "exemplary institution" by AQIP, the Academic Quality Improvement Program. "Furthermore," states the final report, "as a result of new leadership and a renewed commitment from both internal and external stakeholders, JCCC is poised to mature its continuous quality system and process... The college's superior record of leadership in innovation, technology, student engagement, and diversity attest to its ability to remain not only viable but a model for higher education."

Dr. Dana Grove, JCCC executive vice president, Educational Planning and Development/CEO, serves as JCCC's AQIP liaison. As a trained peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission, Grove says he has never come across a report so positive.

The Johnson County League was an early supporter of and active in the development of JCCC.

Ann Arnott

Recent U.S. Senate Votes

The Senate is in recess until January 25.

Recent U.S. House Votes

[Health Care Repeal Rule](#) - Vote **Passed** (236-181, 2 Present, 15 Not Voting) The House approved the rules for debating H.R.2, the bill to repeal the 2010 health care law. The rules provide for seven hours of floor debate. The vote on H.R.2, which was scheduled for Jan. 12, was postponed following Saturday's shootings in Tucson, AZ.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[Reducing the amount authorized for salaries and expenses](#) - Vote **Passed** (408-13, 11 Not Voting) The House voted to reduce operating expenses for lawmakers and committee offices. Budgets for House salaries and office expenses in 2011 and 2012 will be 5 percent less than the 2010 level.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[Repealing the Job-Killing Health Care Law Act](#) - Vote **Passed** (245-189, 1 Not Voting) The House voted to repeal the 2010 health care law. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has vowed to block the bill in the Senate.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF JOHNSON COUNTY
9531 MEADOW LANE
LEAWOOD KS 66206**

Upcoming Events

Friday January 21	Naturalization Ceremony: Register new voters; 1:30 p.m.; Federal Courthouse, 5 th and State, Kansas City, KS
Tuesday February 1	Great Decisions: Topic: Rebuilding Haiti; 7 -8:30 p.m. Central Resource Library, 9875 W. 87 th Street, Overland Park, KS.
Wednesday February 2	Let's Talk Issues: "The New Legislature Begins;" Live broadcast; 7-8 p.m.; JCCC TV Studio, Billington Library, Johnson County Community College, 12345 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS
Saturday February 5	General Meeting: "Politicians and Campaign Money: What's Fair Disclosure?" 8:30 a.m. social time, 9 a.m. program, board meeting, 11 a.m.; Atonement Lutheran Church, 9948 Metcalf, Overland Park, KS
Tuesday February 15	Great Decisions: Topic: National Security; 7 p.m.; Central Resource Library, 9875 W. 87 th Street, Overland Park, KS.
Friday February 25	Naturalization Ceremony: Register new voters; 1:30 p.m.; Federal Courthouse, 5 th and State, Kansas City, KS
Saturday March 5	General Meeting: "Health Care: Where Do We Stand?" 8:30 a.m. social time, 9 a.m. program, board meeting, 11 a.m.; Atonement Lutheran Church, 9948 Metcalf, Overland Park, KS
Thursday March 24	Kansas League Day at the Capitol: Topeka KS
Saturday April 30	LWVK State Convention: Emporia, KS

The deadline for the March VOTER is February 15.