



# VOTER

## Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Johnson County

### How To Reach Us

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*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.*

On May 7, LWV-JC held the Annual Meeting, followed by a luncheon and presentation of awards. League's "Making Democracy Work" award honored Annabeth Surbaugh. The League also honored Taylor Campbell, an Olathe South senior, as winner of its 2011 essay contest. Campbell read her essay (see p. 6) and received the League's \$1,000 scholarship award.



*Annabeth Surbaugh, President Harriet Duff, and Taylor Campbell*



# President's Message

As with many first steps, the first question is "where do we begin?" And, the obvious answer is "at the beginning." So, here we go, another League year.

The new Board started with a meeting following the Making Democracy Work Lunch on Saturday, May 7. In just 27 minutes, they were able to go through a full agenda of appointments and actions. Their next meeting will be on August 6 when the Board will take time to orient itself and make some plans. To keep track of what they are doing through the year, be sure to check the Board Briefs that appear in each issue of the VOTER.

Just because we won't have a general meeting until fall, don't assume that the League is not getting things done. Voters will still be enrolled, members will still attend forums and monitor community meetings, and meeting programs will be arranged. And:

- This summer, a special Johnson County Votes 2012 Planning Committee will meet to consider what project will best support and encourage voting in the 2012 elections. We will not have the excitement of a national election in 2011, but we still have work to do. It will be too late to inform voters if we wait until 2012. Since this is a major new initiative for our League this year, "idea people" are encouraged to join this group. Partnerships with other organizations will also be explored. The goal is to have a project plan in place by September so that the Johnson County Votes Project itself can get off to a good start. Harriett Anderson will chair the committee. Please contact her if you would like to participate in the planning process.
- We're going to have a party! On August 18, the League will host the League Preview Party from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Matt Ross Community Center in Overland Park. It will be a time to chat with League friends and introduce all League programs to members and guests. It's not too early to begin inviting guests. That's how our League will grow!

As to the year ahead, that still has some questions too. What will the Johnson County Votes 2012 project look like? How do we promote our local positions in a time of economic challenges and of shifting legislative support? Will we be able to increase our membership to support our programs? Who will step forward as a new League leader? What will the League's response be as new laws limit the ability of citizens to register and vote? How can we move forward with the Membership Recruitment Initiative that LWVUS is providing for us? Are there new issues that our local League needs to study?

So, let's get going, have a good year, and work together to come up with a few answers!

*Harriet Duff*

## Summary of annual meeting

Budget chairman Nancy Martin presented the 2011-12 budget (see p 3). It was moved and seconded that in the upcoming year a committee be appointed to review the local position statement summaries to insure that they accurately reflect the full position statements and then make changes when necessary."

The membership moved through the annual study approval process. After the election of the new Board, the following suggestions were offered for the new year:

- That the Board and the League support the state League study on state tax exemptions;
- That the League be prepared to take a position on the charter commission study.
- That ideas for using the \$5,000 for Election 2012 activities would be welcomed

*Edys Cacy*

## Membership

It's time to start our LWVJC membership renewal process as our year starts July 1. The membership form is available on our website: [www.lwvjoco.org](http://www.lwvjoco.org).

Be sure to mark the **League Preview Party on your calendar for August 18, 6:30 pm, at the Matt Ross Community Center**. Besides offering a chance to see League friends, this will be your time to hear about plans and volunteer opportunities for the upcoming year. **It's also a time to promote membership growth -- everyone is asked to invite a friend to attend.** The bigger we are, the more we can accomplish!

It hasn't been long since our last meeting, but we're looking forward to continuing our LWVJC friendships. Have a great summer!

*Nancy Gatz and Susan Horst*

# Approved 2011-2012 Budget

## INCOME

<b>Dues:</b>		
28	Household membership @41.25 each	1,155.00
71	Individual membership @55.00 each	3,905.00
0	Student membership	0.00
19	Supporting membership @75.00 each	1,425.00
9	Sustaining membership @\$100.00 each	900.00
9	Honorary membership @ no charge	0.00
136	Total	7,385.00
<b>Contributions:</b>		
	Member contributions	200.00
	Non-member contributions	
	Honorarium and memory contributions	
	Total	200.00
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>		
	Gifts in Kind (non cash)	
	Miscellaneous	
	Total	0.00
	<b>Transfer from Reserves</b>	10,886.80
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	18,471.80

## EXPENSE

<b>Operating:</b>		
	Supplies, Stationery, Misc.	0.00
	Telephone - Google Voice	0.00
	Post Office Box Rental	60.00
	Website domain	80.00
	Miscellaneous	0.00
	Total	140.00
<b>Administrative:</b>		
	President and Board	50.00
	Membership	500.00
	State Corporation fee	60.00
	Financial Review	50.00
	Total	660.00
<b>Delegates and Travel:</b>		
	State meetings	250.00
	National Council/Convention 2012	2,000.00
	Total	2,250.00
<b>LWV Financial Support:</b>		
	State PMP (18.00 each)	2,448.00
	National PMP (29.80 each)	4,052.80
	LWV JC Donation to 2020	136.00
	Total	6,636.80
<b>Service and Information:</b>		
	Voter Services/Candidate Forums	40.00
	Election 2012	5,000.00
	Contributions to other groups	150.00
	Total	5,190.00
<b>Publications:</b>		
	Annual Meeting Book	150.00
	Brochures	0.00
	Other Handbooks	0.00
	Local Position Handbook	0.00
	VOTER, publishing	225.00
	VOTER, postage	180.00
	Total	555.00
<b>Meeting and Studies:</b>		
	Programs and Studies	450.00
	Equipment	315.00
	General/Unit meetings, refreshments	100.00
	Church facilities	500.00
	Total	1,365.00
<b>Events:</b>		
	Wine and Cheese	250.00
	Holiday Party	100.00
	Making Democracy Work Luncheon	650.00
	Essay Contest	1,050.00
	Total	2,050.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	18,471.80

## Board Briefs May 7 meeting

- The Board approved the following appointed Board members and Committee chairs:  
By-Laws — Carol Snyder  
Observer Corps — Jodie Dietz  
Voter Services — Harriett Anderson  
VOTER Editor — Ann Norbury  
Public Relations — Polly Swafford  
Hospitality — Ann McCleery, Tana Schroeder, Christine Hutchins.  
Telephone Communications — Jo Ann Anderson  
Internet Communications — Bradley Applebaum, Mark Adamson  
Historian — Diane Kuhn  
Naturalization — Virginia Johnson  
Speakers Bureau — Sandy Ackerson  
Sound System — Ed and Lee Rowe  
Communications — Peggy Neal
- The Board also approved the appointment of Elaine Giessel as delegate and Ellen Miller as alternate to the MARC Air Quality Forum.
- Ellen Miller announced the League Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI) training on August 26 in Manhattan, KS. President Harriet Duff, Susan Horst and Nancy Gatz will attend, with expenses paid by LWVUS.
- The Board approved placing the MRI announcement in *The Kansas City Star* Business Section at a cost of \$94.
- Candy Birch announced the United Community Services Forum on June 14 will discuss Johnson County poverty and safety-net issues. The board approved the \$25 per person cost for Christine Hutchins and Carisa De Anda.
- Harriet Duff called for the formation of a Johnson County Votes Project Development Committee. The committee, chaired by Harriett Anderson, is to plan the development of a project designed to encourage and/or support voting for the 2012 election.

*Polly Swafford*



### **LWVJC To Give Feedback on National Education Study**

Education is a top priority for Johnson Countians and LWVJC. Federal actions, such as No Child Left Behind, affect every one of our schools.

That's why the board voted recently to provide feedback to LWVUS on its current national study, "The Role of the Federal Government in pre-K through 12 education." Our comments, combined with those of other leagues nationally, will inform the LWVUS board as it creates an updated position to use with Congress and administrations. Local league comments are due by November 30, 2011.

We'll use a streamlined consensus process including:

- ✓ A 5-person team will review the 15 or so study documents on the LWVUS website, then write a short synopsis for our VOTER and website. Links to the full documents will be provided.
- ✓ Readers will be invited to send in comments about each synopsis. A summary of comments will be shared with members.
- ✓ The LKVUS consensus questions will also be put in the VOTER and on the website.
- ✓ At the November 5 general meeting, members will get a response card with the consensus questions. Following a Q&A session, members will be asked to complete the cards.
- ✓ The completed response cards will be sent to LWVUS by 11/30/11.

Candy Birch, Anne Malin, Ellen Miller, Jill Quigley, Tana Schroeder and Polly Swafford comprise the review team. "We are delighted that new members Anne, Jill, and Tana agreed to help," said President Harriet Duff. "Our team brings many perspectives to this crucial national issue."

*Ellen Miller*

**MEMBER ALERT:** For "must read" documents from the study "The Federal Role in pre-K through 12 Education," please check this space in every VOTER!

## 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 p.m. 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 Please mark you calendar for the upcoming Naturalization Ceremonies.

- June 24 Magistrate Judge Gerald L. Rushfelt
- July 29 Judge Robert D. Berger
- August 26 Chief Judge Kathryn H. Vratil

During 2011, several ceremonies were held off-site in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Kansas statehood. It was a cold and windy day outside at the Fort Scott National Barracks and Parade Ground for the May 13 Naturalization Ceremony. We had 87 new citizens from 42 countries and 38 registered to vote. The Fort Scott community and the National Park Service had invited the high school band and chorus to perform. Once again the Johnson County LWV met the challenge and made the community aware of one of the many things we Leaguers do.

*Virginia Johnson*

## LWV-Kansas Convention

Janis McMillen, Ellen Miller, Betty Wyckoff, Nancy Martin, Virginia Johnson, Diane Kuhn, and Dolores Furtado attended the LWV-Kansas Convention held on May 7 in Emporia. President Krehbiel highlighted the “Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: The Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary” project, which was introduced in October 2009. A new national program initiated by LWV-US to train League members in leadership and member recruitment. Ellen Miller attended a training session sponsored by national and is designated as a coach. The goal is to identify leaders, mentor and to grow the League.

The LWV-K financial report showed a slight decline in the fund balance from a year ago, however, the endowment funds increased and, on balance, provides financial stability.

The Board recommended a study on Kansas tax policies with a focus on sales tax exemptions, tax credits, income tax and property taxes. The last update was in 1993.

Pat Donath, the LWV-US Board member who serves as liaison, spoke about Advocacy Priorities. Tim O’Brien, a staff member from LWV-US, spoke about the voter protection issues that are being considered to counteract legislation such as the Voter ID statute passed in Kansas.

The convention ended with election of the new members to the LWV-Kansas Board of Directors. Serving for the next two years are: Ernestine Krehbiel (Wichita) President; MaryAnna Quilty (Topeka) First Vice President; Elizabeth Post (Topeka) Second Vice President; Linda N. Johnson (Leavenworth MAL) Secretary; Leonore Rowe (Johnson County) Treasurer. The Directors are Ellen Miller (Johnson County); James Dunn (Lawrence); Eleanor Browning (Emporia); Kaye Crawford (Salina); Sally Dewey (Wichita) and Jean Lee (Manhattan).

*Dolores Furtado*

## Law Day

As the final part of our Fair and Diverse Judiciary project, League sought to inspire middle school students to consider a career in the legal profession and to pursue an academic path that will make a judgeship possible. The Johnson County Bar Association's Law Day on May 3 at the Johnson County Courthouse in Olathe offered this opportunity.

We had invited the superintendents of our six Johnson County school districts to ask teachers to select strong students who are Asian, African-American, Hispanic, or other ethnicities and who have potential to succeed in the legal profession. Using grant funds, LWV JoCo offered to pay transportation costs and provided a box dinner for students who attended Law Day.

Five middle schools participated (Antioch Middle School, Trailridge Middle School, Mission Valley Middle School, Spring Hill Middle School, and Lexington Trials Middle School) with 24 students attending.

Students were ushered into the Honorable Judge Stephen Tatum's courtroom, where he explained judicial process and courtroom procedures. League provided the students with diversity bags, pens, literature, wrist bands, and a certificate of completion.

Law Day was open to the public and had various activities such as: ask-a-lawyer clinic, presentation of local criminal cases of public interest, demonstrations by the CSI unit, tours of the courthouse by District Court Judges, and public interest exhibits. In addition, LWV staffed a table with voter registrations materials, as well as information about League.

League members who coordinated this effort included Ann Etter, Carissa DeAnda, Candy Birch, Jodie Dietz, Ann Norbury, Harriet Duff, and Harriett Anderson.

*Ann Norbury*

*Essay 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?*

## **Winning Essay**

*by Taylor Campbell*

I'm so happy you decided to register to vote. I hope you will vote in all local, state, and federal elections. It is vital for our democracy to exercise the right to vote!

Do you remember your American history? George Washington, his friends, and his army fought for the right to choose our elected officials. African and Hispanic Americans and women died fighting for the right to vote. I know what you are thinking, "That is history, who cares?"

Have you read about the turmoil in Egypt? The Egyptian's did not have a say in who led their country. Their president was put in power by the line of succession when then President Sadat was assassinated. The Egyptians are tired of not having a say. They are fighting for democracy.

Even though the United States does have problems, we get to vote leaders into office who can solve our problems. If you don't like your current mayor, governor, or president, you can vote against him or her in the next election. He or she may still get elected, but at least your vote was heard.

If you don't like what your elected officials are doing while in office, you can call, email, Facebook, or Twitter them to voice your opinion. In North Korea and China you may be imprisoned for life or killed for speaking out against leadership.

It is not just people on ballots. In the November 2010 election, state voters voted on legalizing and taxing marijuana, misdemeanor legal action for puppy mill cruelty, eliminating mental illness as a voting disqualification, adding a casino, and prohibiting convicted felons from running for sheriff, to name a few. Some day you may have your own children. You may have the opportunity to support your kid's schools by voting for school bonds. This is democracy.

So, please, seriously consider what I just said. The right to vote is an honor. Take advantage of it!

## **Member Spotlight: Pat Lanser**

Pat Lanser claims she was born with an interest in politics. News of the day was the topic at her family's dinner table. Her parents, survivors of the Great Depression, always kept their family aware and had an opinion about what was going on in the country.

After Pat married, she and her husband, Don, lived in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin where she was first introduced to the League of Women Voters. She liked the League because "of its non-partisan approach, open to both sides of an issue." However, as a mother busy raising four children, she could not join the League at that time.



Later with the children grown, Pat went back to school at Richland College, Dallas County, Texas and earned a BA Degree in business. She found that she was "more susceptible to learning and the classes were easy." She also had jobs in office management and sales which she says "provided good experience for anything we do in life." Companies were implementing the computer in their offices at that time, and employers sent their workers to classes to learn how to operate them.

Today Pat shares her computer knowledge by teaching seniors for Senior Computer Users Group of Greater Kansas City (SenCom). "I really enjoy teaching," Pat says, about her seven years volunteering with the group. She is presently serving as Vice President and in 2012 will be President of SenCom.

After retiring from her position as Office Manager for the Shepherd Centers of America, Pat followed up on her initial interest in the League of Women Voters. She joined the Johnson County League when Deloris Furtado and Janis McMillen were co-Presidents. She became a member of the local and international Immigration Study Committee. Pat also joined the committee of the 2004 Recycling Task Force for "Landfill," which studied the Sunflower site

contamination and made a proposal for improving local recycling programs. She decided to volunteer as an observer for the League, attending meetings of the Airport Commission. Her next role was as Membership Chair when she put all records on the computer. In 2010 she chaired the study on poverty, and this year she served on the Nominating Committee.

Pat was elected LWVJC president in 2006. That was a time when new members became interested in promoting the Speakers Bureau and using current techniques to enhance their presentations. She attended the LWV National Convention in Washington, D.C. which provided an opportunity for her to have a voice in the National League's issues. While there, she met with Congressman Pat Robert's assistant to inform him of the issues discussed in the convention meetings.

Pat Lanser's early interest in politics is on-going. It's not unusual to see a letter she has written to the editor published in *The Kansas City Star*. She feels "the League is a wonderful, intelligent and educated group of women and men with differences in personalities and interests, but always civil in their political discussions. I like the fact that once we've done a study of an issue and reached consensus, we lobby on that issue."

*Polly Swafford*

## OBSERVER CORPS REPORTS

### **Johnson County WaterOne Board** May 10 meeting ([www.waterone.org](http://www.waterone.org))

- Prairie Village's tank now surplus. For over 60 years, the water tank at 6920 Roe Avenue in McCrum Park has reliably served water customers. But aging equipment and changing water technology made it obsolete. Testing was conducted to assure adequate water supply for fire control and customer usage without it. The tank was officially taken out of service on February 18, 2011. Demolishing it will save substantial operational and maintenance costs.
- Black & Veatch bill comes in under estimates. The 36<sup>th</sup> and final amendment to B&V's contract for engineering services during the massive Phase V improvement project totaled \$213,305. Phase V included the design, environmental impact, construction and testing of miles of 60-inch water mains, a new treatment plant, pumping stations, etc. B&V's fees totaled 13.3 percent of the \$166,490,575 in construction costs – under the estimated 15-18 percent.
- Main relocation at I-70 and 118<sup>th</sup> Street. A year ago, Water One and the Kansas Dept. of Transportation tried to coordinate installation of a 60-inch water main, but KDoT's plans weren't ready. Now the main has to be relocated due to KDoT's widening and realigning I-70. However, the Department will pay for 85 percent of all expenses. To assure project continuity, WaterOne will use KDoT's engineering firm, George Butler Associates.

*Ellen Miller*

### **Johnson County Library Board** April 20 meeting

- Library volunteers were recently honored with 100 more volunteers than last year contributing 3,200 more volunteer hours, the equivalent of 22 full-time employees.
- The Board recognized 10 winners of the 2011 Library Week Bookmark Contest, which had over 500 entries.
- The self-check machines were used for 72 percent of circulation in 2010 compared to 44 percent a year ago.
- Librarian Donna Lauffer reported on six public focus groups held in regard to decreasing revenues. The major concerns were convenient locations and hours, especially to avoid closing any facilities.
- The budget is expected to be cut \$712,062 for 2012.
- Special events programming will be reduced 67 percent to focus services, reduce staff time, materials, and marketing costs.

### **Johnson County Library Board** May 18 meeting

- The Board heard an update on the status of the RFID (radio-frequency identification) conversion. There are 20-30 staff members working on the project through ten subcommittees. The project will tag all items in circulation for electronic checkout, return, and sorting, freeing staff time for other duties. Because Blue Valley and Central have the highest circulation, they will probably be the first libraries to test the system.

*Connie Richards*

### **Johnson County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)** April 21 meeting

- Business: First Quarter 2011 Audit Recommendation: Plans must be submitted by each department to show ongoing plans and projects and the current stage in implementation of these plans. The auditors pick at random different areas to check. At this time there were 55 picked for audit showing 27 in progress, 28 completed and closed. Three were stated completed but found not to be so. The recommendation was for closer oversight and follow-up on all audits.
- Chairman Eilert commented on a visit from government officials from the Ukraine. They told him that everything came down from the central government, and the local governments had very little autonomy. The Commissioners agreed that despite all the problems in governing, they were glad we had local, county, state and federal governments.

- Committee of the Whole: Preliminary discussion of the 2012 Wastewater Rate Plan. The 90-day reserve had fallen to 75-day reserve; this could effect the Triple Bond Rating. The Board discussed the operating and management fund and then the capital outlay fund. Then they submitted plans for rate increases, which are still in the discussion phase but forecast increases of 11 percent in 2011 and 12.7 percent in 2012. They also presented a new billing plan which would go into effect in 2014 where residents would pay for usage. This would go to the operational and management fund and would show up on the water bill and the capital outlay portion would be on the tax bill. Chairman Eilert stated that education of the public would be mandatory. The Wastewater group was given suggestions and requested answers to questions and instructed to come back to the BOCC on May 12.
- The Strategic Facilities Master Plan: This was an informational presentation and listed some of the components such as building in the county, properties, space needed for county government, the flexibility of facilities and the oversight needed as the ongoing operation of this plan goes forward.

*Virginia Johnson*

**Johnson County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) April 28 meeting**

- Public Comments: One community member expressed concern that the audit report was published online at 4 p.m. on the day before the BOCC was to discuss it, noting that was an unreasonable time frame for the public to evaluate and prepare comments.
- Action Agenda: A departmental reorganization moves the county's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program from the Office of Budget and Management to the Human Services Department. The rationale is that most of these grants are related to, and administered by, the Human Services Department.
- County Manager's Report:
  1. Teen Pregnancy Maintenance services: Johnson County Health Department (JCHD) has identified prevention of teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases as a public health priority. The Department is using county funds allocated in its FY 2011 budget to provide staff time and programming to address this priority through two abstinence based programs. County staff presents the program in several middle schools, as well as at the county health department for all school districts in the county. The programs are:
    - "Making a Difference!" which teaches prevention of STDs, HIV and Teen Pregnancy, in an evidence based curriculum for adolescents aged 11-13.
    - "Let's Get Growing" which targets adolescents 9 to 12 years of age and their parents. This interactive program teaches young people about normal physical, social, and emotional changes that they are likely to experience as they mature and encourages family dialogue.

In addition, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has provided JCHD the opportunity to be included in the "Personal Responsibility Education Program," a state program funded through the federal government on Children, Youth, and Families. The funding will support programs that educate young people on both abstinence and contraception for prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. If the county is awarded grant funding in the amount of \$115,000, the JCHD staff would be responsible for presenting the program.
  2. A new, streamlined process at the Department of Motor Vehicles offers three options for renewing automobile license plates: 1) in person at the DMV office; this option also offers the opportunity to go online and make a specific appointment, thereby avoiding the long waits; 2) mailing in the renewal form; and 3) via the website

*Janis McMillen*

**Johnson County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) May 5 meeting**

- County Manager's report: One of the Commissioners requested an update on development of a new policy on county employees living in county-owned housing. This follows on the discovery a few months ago that some county employees were living rent-free in these county-owned houses. The policy is being revised but is not yet ready for review by the BOCC.
- Legislative report : As of this date, it appears that the proposed state budget would restore between \$8 million and \$12 million in cuts to mental health. However one version of the budget would cut the SRS budget by \$10 million. These figures are tentative until the final budget is agreed on by both the House and the Senate and the Governor signs the budget bills. Note: the Governor can line-item veto budget bills.

*Janis McMillen*

**Johnson County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) May 12 meeting**

- Action Agenda: The Board passed two resolutions. 1) to conduct a public hearing and consider adopting and incorporating by reference a codification of enacted resolutions know as the Johnson County Code with related penalty provisions. 2) to consider approving zoning regulation text changes to allow Small Wind Energy Conversion Systems which are fully in compliance with new performance standards to be installed and operated without special zoning approval; and also to allow conditional use permits for Small Wind Energy Conversion Systems that are not fully in compliance with those standards.

*Virginia Johnson*

**Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees April 21 meeting**

- College Lobbyist Report. In addition to his Topeka report, lobbyist Carter reported a potential move toward a 401K for KPERS retirement funds. In response to a question, Carter said he didn't think the current Johnson County DA investigation into the Bioscience Authority would impinge on the efforts of the Research Triangle.
- A matching grant challenge was reached toward the construction of the Culinary & Hospitality Bldg. The firm used for architectural, engineering and food services design of the building has proven expertise in the specific needs for the building, as "it's not like designing a classroom building."
- Learning Quality. Trustee Sharp reported that Kansas ranks 50<sup>th</sup>--at the very bottom!--of states in terms of JCCC credits being transferrable to (articulated) 4-year colleges, and steps begun to ameliorate this problem. President Calaway pointed out that this results in higher costs for JCCC students who must later retake the courses.

- Student Senate. President Paris reported that fundraising resulted in two scholarships established for interstate students. He also stated that the senate has initiated ongoing “Senate tables” on Tuesday and Friday afternoons in the commons area where students can bring up complaints. Recent topics include increase in course cost per unit, food in cafeteria and smoking policy.
- The Annual Meeting of KACCT (Kansas Ass’n of Community College Trustees) will be June 10 in Kansas City, KS.
- Foundation. Trustee Rayl reported that the “Dollars for Scholars” fundraiser was a “huge success,” raising about \$35,000 via the live and silent auction.
- Faculty Association President Anderson was elected to a third term.

*Ann Arnott*

**Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees**      May 19 meeting

- College Lobbyist Report. Redistricting and reapportionment of districts will be high on the list soon. During Q&A, lobbyist Carter stated he didn’t know what effect the governor’s elimination of the Kansas Art Commission might have on JCCC and its strong arts program. Both he and Dr. Calaway commented on the unexpected abrupt resignation of Gary Sherrer as Chairman of the Kansas Board of Regents, in the midst of a Regents’ meeting, with just one more meeting left in his term.
- Management report. Among other items, Trustee Drummond mentioned the need to find a replacement for the King’s Cove site for classes to serve students in northeast Johnson County. The Gateway Center, site of the former Mission Mall, has been postponed yet again. The Olathe Health Education Center doors will open soon and be in full swing for fall semester.
- As part of his Audit report, Trustee Weiss mentioned the success of the anonymous Ethics report line. Thirteen calls were handled and resolved during the past month. Stewart and Weiss handle these calls and stressed how seriously they take this responsibility.
- Discussion of the treasurer’s report was based on the recent Board budget workshop. It stressed that the same mill levy has been maintained for the past five years. Cuts have been made in administrative staff; not faculty. There will be a two per cent increase in student fee per credit hour.
- The President’s report included mention of the numerous graduations (GED on Tuesday, nursing and respiratory therapy on Wednesday, and the formal college graduation on Friday with Senator Jerry Moran as speaker. President Calaway also reported on the success of “pre-college day,” under the direction of Public Affairs director Julie Haas. More than 1,300 potential students participated and in addition it “was great p.r.”
- Student Senate President Paris highlighted recent Student Senate activities. One was the success of “tabling” sessions, with Student Senate representatives being available at set times to discuss issues informally with students. Recent topics raised by students include more Town Hall meetings with the president, lobbying against the “DREAM” act, providing parking designed for motorcyclists (so that they don’t take up a full car space).
- Faculty Association President Anderson stated that two significant task forces have been established: a work load task force and a benefits task force. Both are “thorny issues,” he stated. There has been a lot of blowback about the Emeritus program being suspended this year. Membership in the association is up.

*Ann Arnott*

**Olathe School Board**      May 5 meeting

- A report on the District’s Energy Conservation Efforts showed that since 1992, the district’s square footage has increased 124 percent, while its energy costs have increased only 34.4 percent.
- Tyler Howard was recognized as the Grand Prize Winner at the Kansas City Science and Engineering Fair. Of 11 winners in the senior division, four represented Olathe schools.
- The Board approved the sale of \$6M in Qualified School Construction Bonds for a rate of 4.65 percent. These bonds are taxable, but the interest is paid by the federal government. The school district will make semi-annual payments into a sinking fund, which will earn 3.925 percent. When the bonds are paid back in 15 years, the district will only be out of pocket \$4.38M.
- After a review of the 2010 census data, current school board districts are still within the required 5 percent variance, so there will be no changes in boundaries.

*Connie Richards*

**Shawnee Mission School Board**      April 25 meeting

- Sara Goodburn was elected to fill the Position 1 North area vacancy.

*Virginia Johnson*

**Shawnee Mission School Board**      May 9 Meeting

- First National Bank, in partnership with the SM School District Career and Technical Education Department, worked with students in grades 10, 11, and 12 for the Third Annual First National Bank Business Plan Competition. The goal was to encourage students to develop new business ideas and write a business plan for either a start-up company or a early venture company.
- The Shawnee Mission School District was recognized for its implementation of School-Wide Positive Behavior Support (SWPBS) in elementary, middle and high schools.
- Business: Approval of Revised Fee Schedule for 2011-2012 which will be \$50 for extra-curricular activities and \$40 for book rental, etc making a total of \$90 for each student. Approval of New Board Policy JQ-E Waiver Request for fee schedule in hardship cases.

*Virginia Johnson*

## Wyandotte County Unified Government Commission

March 31 meeting

The following are members of the Board of Commissioners as of the March 2011 election in. Mayor, Joe Reardon; Commissioners: John Mendez, Angela Markley, Tarence Maddox, Ann Brandau-Murgia, Brian McKierman, Nathan Barnes, Tom Cooley, Mike Kane, Butch Ellison, and Mark Holland.

- Planning and Zoning: A total of 14 items were approved; only two items were opened for public comment.

## Wyandotte County Unified Government Commission

April 7 meeting

- Mayor's Agenda: Resolutions honored retiring commissioners, Pat Pettey, Mark Mitchell, and Bill Miller. A resolution requested adoption of the "Complete Streets" resolution. stating the philosophy of the UG within the city limits of Kansas City, KS. This allows staff to develop a comprehensive and integrated transportation network with infrastructure and design that allows safe and convenient travel along and across streets.
- Consent Agenda: All seven items were approved. The main items involved improvements to one of the parks, request approval to submit Healthy Life Styles grant application to Health Care Foundation of Great KC in the amount of \$286,000, request acceptance of a Teen Pregnancy Targeted Case Management grant from KDHE in the amount of \$20,429 for March 1-June 30, 2011.

## Wyandotte County Unified Government Commission

May 5 meeting

- Consent Agenda: 1) an ordinance authorizing the issuance of TDD Sales Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds for the Prescott Plaza Project. The original note is due 6-1-2011 and this will extend the financing until 6-1-2015 with a reduced interest rate from 5.5 percent to 4.0 percent. 2) Two resolutions involved lease purchase agreements. One with Master Equipment was amended and the other was with Commerce Bank, National Association for acquiring and installing certain equipment at the Legends Theatre. This financing will be paid by theatre revenue.
- Administrator's Agenda: An update on the bond sale for the Board of Public Utilities in the amount of \$90,000,000 which had an interest rate of 4.6 percent instead of an anticipated rate of 5 percent. The bonds are for 25 year term. Two resolutions involved the fire department headquarters building: 1) to authorize the repair of the leaking roof and to provide payment for repairs; 2) to authorize offering for sale Municipal Temporary Notes in the amount of \$360,000 to pay for the roof replacement improvement project. These two resolutions were necessary because the repair of the roof had not been included in the yearly budget. Both of these resolutions passed. The third item was for a plan Review Petition for additional parking for the new soccer stadium at the Legends; it passed.

Pat Yingst and Marilyn Bynum

## Recent U.S. Senate Votes

[Fiscal 2011 Health Care Overhaul Funding](#) - Vote **Rejected** (47-53) The Senate rejected this enrollment correction resolution that would have blocked funding for the implementation of the health care law in the 2011 fiscal year spending bill. The House adopted the resolution. Both chambers had to pass the resolution for it to be included in the final spending bill.

**Sen. Pat Roberts** voted **YES**.....**Sen. Jerry Moran** voted **YES**

[Fiscal 2011 Planned Parenthood Funding](#) - Vote **Rejected** (42-58) The Senate rejected this enrollment correction resolution that would have blocked funding for Planned Parenthood in the 2011 fiscal year spending bill. The House adopted the resolution. Both chambers had to pass the resolution for it to be included in the final spending bill.

**Sen. Pat Roberts** voted **YES**.....**Sen. Jerry Moran** voted **YES**

[Fiscal 2011 Spending Agreement](#) - Vote **Passed** (81-19) The Senate gave final approval to this bill funding the government through the end of the current fiscal year. Based on the agreement negotiated to prevent a government shutdown, the bill provides \$1.055 trillion in federal spending. The president signed the bill into law on Friday, April 15.

**Sen. Pat Roberts** voted **YES** **Sen. Jerry Moran** voted **YES**

[Confirmation John J. McConnell, Jr. of Rhode Island, to be U.S. District Judge](#) - Vote **Confirmed** (50-44, 5 Not Voting) The Senate confirmed attorney John J. McConnell to be a district court judge in Rhode Island.

**Sen. Pat Roberts** voted **Not Voting** **Sen. Jerry Moran** voted **NO**

[Cloture Motion; James M. Cole to be Deputy Attorney General](#) - Vote **Rejected** (50-40, 10 Not Voting) The Senate fell short of the 60 votes needed to end debate and move to a final vote on the nomination of James M. Cole to be deputy attorney general. Cole was given a recess appointment in December 2010.

**Sen. Pat Roberts** voted **NO** **Sen. Jerry Moran** voted **Not Voting**

[Motion to Proceed; Close Big Oil Tax Loopholes Act](#) - Vote **Rejected** (52-48) The Senate fell short of the 60 votes needed to proceed to consideration of this bill that would end certain tax breaks for large oil companies. The bill may resurface as part of the upcoming budget negotiations.

**Sen. Pat Roberts** voted **NO** **Sen. Jerry Moran** voted **NO**

[Motion to Proceed; Offshore Production and Safety Act of 2011](#) - Vote **Rejected** (42-57, 1 Not Voting) The Senate fell short of the 60 votes needed to take up this bill intended to increase offshore oil production. The bill is similar to the offshore oil bills passed in the House earlier this month.

**Sen. Pat Roberts** voted **YES** **Sen. Jerry Moran** voted **YES**

[Cloture Motion; Nomination of Goodwin Liu to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit](#) - Vote **Rejected** (52-43, 1 Present, 4 Not Voting) The Senate rejected this cloture motion on the nomination of Goodwin Liu to be a federal appeals court judge. A cloture motion requires 60 votes to end debate and move on to a final vote.

**Sen. Pat Roberts** voted **NO** **Sen. Jerry Moran** voted **Not Voting**

## Recent U.S. House Votes

[To repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund](#) - Vote **Passed** (236-183, 13 Not Voting) This House bill would eliminate funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which was established by the health care law. Supporters of the bill say there is no accountability to determine where the money is spent. Opponents of the bill say it would defund important prevention programs. The Senate is unlikely to take up the measure.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[Fiscal 2011 Spending Agreement](#) - Vote **Passed** (260-167, 6 Not Voting) The House passed this bill to fund the government through the end of the current fiscal year. Based on the agreement negotiated to prevent a government shutdown, the bill provides \$1.055 trillion in federal spending. The Senate passed the bill later in the day, clearing it for the president.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **NO**

[Fiscal 2011 Health Care Overhaul Funding](#) - Vote **Passed** (240-185, 7 Not Voting) Following passage of the 2011 spending bill, the House adopted this enrollment correction resolution that would have blocked funding for the implementation of the health care law. The Senate rejected the resolution so it will not be part of the final spending bill.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[Fiscal 2011 Planned Parenthood Funding](#) - Vote **Passed** (241-185, 1 Present, 5 Not Voting) Following passage of the 2011 spending bill, the House adopted this enrollment correction resolution that would have blocked funding for Planned Parenthood. The Senate rejected the resolution so it will not be part of the final spending bill.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[Fiscal 2012 House Budget Resolution](#) - Vote **Passed** (235-193, 4 Not Voting) The House passed a budget resolution that calls for \$1.019 trillion in discretionary spending in the 2012 fiscal year. The budget resolution would allow for \$2.859 trillion in overall spending. The resolution is non-binding but is used as a guideline for appropriators. The Senate is expected to work on its budget after the recess.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[To repeal mandatory funding provided to establish American Health Benefit Exchanges](#) - Vote **Passed** (238-183, 11 Not Voting) The House passed this bill to eliminate federal grants to states to set up health insurance exchanges. The grants are part of the 2010 health care bill which requires each state to establish an exchange by 2014. The bill is unlikely to advance in the Senate.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[To repeal mandatory funding for school-based health center construction](#) - Vote **Passed** (235-191, 6 Not Voting) The House passed this bill that would repeal a section in the 2010 health care bill providing funding for the construction of school-based health centers. The bill is unlikely to advance in the Senate.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act](#) - Vote **Passed** (251-175, 6 Not Voting) This bill would prohibit federal funds from being used for abortions, except in the cases of rape, incest or danger to the woman's life. A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate, but it is unlikely to gain any traction.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act](#) - Vote **Passed** (266-149, 17 Not Voting)

This House bill would require the Interior Department to sell oil and gas leases in the Gulf of Mexico and off the coast of Virginia. The bill's future in the Senate is uncertain.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[Putting the Gulf of Mexico Back to Work Act](#) - Vote **Passed** (263-163, 5 Not Voting) The House passed this bill that would expedite the permitting process for lessees seeking to drill for oil and natural gas in the Gulf of Mexico. The Interior Department would be required to review applications within 30 days, with the option of extending the review period to 60 days. The Senate is unlikely to take up the bill.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act](#) - Vote **Passed** (243-179, 9 Not Voting) This House bill would require the Interior Department to open certain unused areas of the Outer Continental Shelf for oil and natural gas drilling. The bill is unlikely to advance in the Senate.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011](#) - Vote **Passed** (392-15, 24 Not Voting) The House approved this bill authorizing intelligence-related programs for the current fiscal year. Funding levels authorized for the 16 intelligence gathering agencies are classified, but it is estimated to be around \$80 billion. The Senate version of the bill is currently at a standstill.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

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

## **Upcoming Events**

<b>Friday June 24</b>	<b>Naturalization Ceremony:</b> Register new voters; 1:30 p.m.; Federal Courthouse, 5th and State, Kansas City, KS
<b>Friday July 29</b>	<b>Naturalization Ceremony:</b> Register new voters; 1:30 p.m.; Federal Courthouse, 5th and State, Kansas City, KS
<b>Saturday August 6</b>	<b>LWV JoCo Board Meeting:</b> 10 a.m.-noon; Central Resource Library, 9875 W. 87th Street, Overland Park, KS.
<b>Thursday August 18</b>	<b>League Preview Party:</b> 6:30 - 9 p.m.; Matt Ross Community Center, 8101 Marty, Overland Park, KS: <b>EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO BRING A GUEST</b>
<b>Saturday September 10</b>	<b>General Meeting:</b> 8:30 a.m. social time; 9 a.m. program; 11 a.m. board meeting; Atonement Lutheran Church, 9948 Metcalf, Overland Park, KS

**The deadline for the July/August VOTER is July 15.**