

# V O T E R

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*The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization of women and men of every age, race, background and political belief. Through more than 1200 local Leagues, state Leagues and the national organization, League members work to promote citizen action on local, state, and national issues.*

## ***Gage-ing the City Manager*** ***Aug. 29 Membership Meeting Gives Spotlight to*** ***JASON GAGE***

New Salina city manager Jason Gage will present his ideas to the League and community members at this year's end-of-summer membership meeting **7pm Monday, August 29**, in the Prescott Room on the lower level of the Salina Public Library.

The League has asked Gage to address the issue of city-county consolidation, the subject of a local League study this year. Beyond that, Gage is free to discuss his choice of topics and answer audience questions.

Gage's take on local issues affects citizens throughout the Salina area and may not be well known, since Gage took office only in the past few weeks. The League anticipates good

attendance and a lively question-and-answer period following the talk. Please join us.

Gage, 36, was Salina's assistant city manager from 1999 to 2003. He then took the city manager position in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Salina hired him back this past April. He officially began his new job on July 5, replacing seventeen-year city manager Dennis Kissinger.

If past years' experience holds true, the membership meeting will be filmed by a crew from Community Access Television and covered by other local media. Emma Doherty's prize refreshments add to the attraction of the event.

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we prepare to mark the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, we should be proud of the progress that has been made and ever vigilant in keeping watch over all the rights we have in this country, including, but not limited to the right to vote.

This is also the year that the Help America Vote Act is to be implemented, yet we still struggle with privacy rights and computerization of ballots. Our friends with disabilities want to have the ability to vote at the same voting booths, at the same time as their non disabled friends. And people who are blind or visually impaired want to vote in private.

We hear from our League President, Kay Maxwell that our sisters at the League of Woman Voters of Toledo-Lucas County are

suings Ohio's Governor and secretary of state "for 30 years of dysfunctional election administration."

There is so much to do, and sometimes it seems overwhelming as to where to begin.

I received an e-mail from a friend this week from a friend describing a little known provision of No Child Left Behind, public high schools must hand over personal information about students -- including minors -- to local military recruiters, or risk losing federal education funding. (There is a web site with more information about this at [www.leavemychildalone.org/friend](http://www.leavemychildalone.org/friend) .)

But I believe we start right here, getting engaged in politics, getting involved in voter registration, education, and motivation. We can start

with our local communities.

There are so many great role models in our Salina league, both experienced and new members who put a great deal of energy into this organization. You can get to work with them.

You can start by attending the Meeting in August with our special guest Jason Gage, the new city manager. Join us at the Tri Rivers Fair. Contact me ([ginaamd@aol.com](mailto:ginaamd@aol.com)) to participate in organizing a forum to encourage and teach more women to become political leaders, or to participate in any of the other activities.

85 years after the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment the work has never been so important.

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

—Gina McDonald

**Gina  
McDonald**

## CALENDAR

### AUG 2005

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

### SEPTEMBER 2005

- 13 Lunch and Learn
- 15 Board Meeting

### OCTOBER 2005

- 11 Lunch and Learn
- 20 Board Meeting

### NOVEMBER 2005

- 8 Lunch and Learn
- 17 Board Meeting

### DECEMBER 2005

No Board Meeting

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

Legislative action chair, Mary Frances Hogg, reminds us to keep this contact information handy:

### GOV. KATHLEEN SEBELIUS

[sebelius@governor.state.ks.us](mailto:sebelius@governor.state.ks.us)  
877-579-6757 (Toll free)  
1-785-296-6240 (Local)  
Office of the Governor  
Capitol, 300 SW 10th Ave., Ste. 212S  
Topeka, KS 66612-1590

### SEN. PAT ROBERTS

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

### SEN. SAM BROWBACK

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

316-264-8066 (Wichita office)

### REP. JERRY MORAN

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### State REP. CHARLES ROTH

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### State REP. DEENA HORST

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785-827-8540

## TWO-PART STRAW POLL AT LEAGUE'S TRI-RIVERS FAIR BOOTH

Area youth as well as adults will have a voice in the League's annual straw poll at the Tri-Rivers Fair from 5pm Wednesday, August 10, through 9pm, Saturday, August 13, in Heritage Hall at the Bicentennial Center.

Two separate issues will be put to a vote. Past years' polls have always had a vote for adults, but including the youth in the voting with their own issues is a new idea this year.

The question for adults asks for names of individuals recommended as candidates for office. The League is interested in the answers that come in as a part of efforts to have good candidates, both men and women, from all segments of our community running for office. The League is organizing a meeting of potential candidates, giving them opportunity to hear from others who have been successful at attaining office. The meeting will be later in the school year.

The youth vote asks for their greatest concerns and what needs to change in their part of the community.

Time slots may still be available with room for a second League member to staff the fair booth. Call Marge Mintun if you are willing to help. You may want you bring along one of your favorite youths to help recruit the opinions of the younger citizens passing by.

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!!

### THE STRAW POLL QUESTIONS ***ISSUE #1—FOR ADULTS***

The League of Women Voters would like to attract new candidates from all areas of our community to run for public office in Salina.

Please tell us the name of one new candidate whom you believe should run for public office in Salina. We wish to invite them to a special meeting and program for prospective new candidates.

### ***ISSUE #2—CALLING ALL TEENS!***

This is your chance to air your own views about your community! The League of Women Voters would like your opinion on two issues applying to teens.

- 1) What do you think in the greatest concern for teens age 12 to 19 in the community where you live?
- 2) What would you like to see changed in your community?

## September 13 • LUNCH & LEARN • October 11

### September 13, 2005:

**Wendy Moshier** from the Salina Art Center will speak on the work and purpose of the Art Center for the Salina community in her presentation, "Art is for Everyone." She will include a new 12-minute video that promotes the Art Center and the whole Salina Community—Wendy describes the video as "fabulous!" Wendy has been the center's interim director since the resignation of long-time director Saralyn Reece-Hardy until new hire Heather Ferrell takes the job this week. Come find out what's in it for you!

### October 11, 2005:

**Mary Thrower**, assistant Saline County Attorney, will discuss her work on the statewide "Child Safety & Permanency Committee." The group reports to SRS and the Juvenile Justice Authority on the experiences of children in the court system and foster care programs in Kansas. Mary will report on recent program changes and upcoming grant opportunities and how they may affect youth in the Salina area. Mary was a court services officer in Salina and did similar work in Colorado before going to law school.

## EARLY KANSAS WOMEN CHANGED THE WORLD

### From the beginning, Kansas women were crucial players in winning progress for women.

The national League of Women Voters grew out of the long struggle to achieve the vote for women. The early fight for equal suffrage was waged on two levels—state-by-state and at the federal level. Women worked in their home states to get legislatures to enact suffrage bills or to pass state constitutional amendments, and at the same time efforts were under way to pass a national constitutional amendment. During that time, Kansas women were part of the suffrage battle.

### The Suffrage Movement in Kansas

- 1859**--Three feminists, Clarina Nichols, Mother Armstrong, and Mary Tenney Gray, attended the Wyandotte constitutional convention, representing Shawnee and Douglas County women's groups, to urge the inclusion of equal suffrage in the new state's constitution. They were not allowed to speak, but were granted the unprecedented right to acquire and possess property and to retain the equal custody of their children.
- 1861**—The first Kansas state legislature gave women the right to vote in school elections.
- 1867**—Woman suffrage and Negro suffrage were put on the ballot, in two separate referenda. This made Kansas the first state in the Union to consider woman suffrage. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony traveled the state campaigning for the ballot. Both proposals lost.
- 1868**—In December, the federal woman suffrage amendment was first introduced in Congress, by Senator S.C. Pomeroy of Kansas.
- 1869**—A women's convention was held in Topeka to revive the cause.
- 1874**—The Prohibition Party in Kansas endorsed woman suffrage.

**1879**—The first woman suffrage organization in Kansas, the Equal Suffrage Association (ESA), was established in Lincoln, Kansas.

**1884**—A statewide ESA was founded.

**1885**—A bill was introduced in Kansas to grant women municipal voting rights.

**1887**—Municipal suffrage was won in Kansas, allowing women to run for office in all city elections. On April 4, 1887, Susannah Medora Salter was elected mayor in Argonia, Kansas, in Sumner County, becoming the first woman mayor in the nation.

**1888-1889**—Oskaloosa, Cottonwood Falls, Rossville, Elk Falls, and Baldwin elected women mayors.

**1890-1899**—Canton, Edgerton, Iowa, Hadam, Pleasanton, Gaylord, Ellis, Jamestown, and Beattie chose women mayors.

**1893**—A constitutional amendment to grant woman suffrage in Kansas was again defeated.

**1911**—The Kansas suffrage amendment was resubmitted to the legislature and passed by a vote of 94 to 28.

**1912**—Kansas adopted a constitutional amendment granting women full suf-

**"Women do not need to be told whom to vote for. They need to know the facts."**

**—Carrie Chapman Catt**

frage.

At the final convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), the League of Women Voters was born. In March 1919, Carrie Chapman Catt, the strategist who led the suffrage movement to its final victory, called for the formation of a league of women voters to "finish the fight." The occasion was the 50th Anniversary Jubilee Convention of NAWSA in St. Louis, Missouri.

Jane Brooks of Wichita, wife of a prominent attorney and president of the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association, was

elected chairman of the national league of women voters, because, as a contemporary said, "She was attractive, able, and not tarred up as an old suffrage warhorse."

She went home to Kansas and set about dissolving the KESA and establishing the first local League of Women Voters in the country.

The KESA held its last meeting on Wednesday, June 4, 1919, and laid the foundation for the Kansas League of Women Voters. In addition officers were elected for the Sedgwick County League of Women Voters. One week later, the first annual meeting of the Kansas League of Women Voters was held June 10-11, 1919, at the Hotel Lassen in Wichita. In January, 1920, the Kansas League held the "First School of Citizenship and Called Convention of the Kansas League of Women Voters," again at the Hotel Lassen. Leagues from Topeka, Enterprise, Hutchinson, Emporia, Manhattan, Wichita, Lawrence, Leavenworth, and Winfield were represented. Kansas Governor Henry J. Allen spoke on "Land Tenantry and Industrial Courts" and the heads of 25 local women's organizations ranging from the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Kansas to the Thursday Afternoon Cooking Club served as "patronesses."

In February 1920, NAWSA held its Victory Convention in Chicago, Illinois. Knowing that the battle was won and that the suffrage amendment would be ratified later that year (the actual date of ratification was August 26, 1920), NAWSA reconstituted itself as the League of Women Voters. Catt called it "a mighty experiment." Having won the vote, the women wanted to ensure that they were well-informed and would use it wisely.

Throughout the 1920's, the Kansas League held "citizenship schools" in conjunction with their state conventions. Said Carrie Chapman Catt, "We have faith in women to vote right only when they know what is right. Women do not need to be told whom to vote for. They need to know the

# THE LEAGUE IN KANSAS: STILL MAKING HISTORY

## The right to vote was won. Now what to do with that hard-won right?

Kansas women did not sit on their laurels. They took their new power and began wielding it as wisely as they could.

**1919**—The Kansas League urged all local Leagues to appoint court visiting committees to monitor cases in which women and children were tried.

**1920**—The Kansas League supported the League of Nations and membership in the World Court

**1922**—Carrie Chapman Catt visited the Wichita and Topeka Leagues and spoke on the role of the U.S. in international affairs and world peace

**1924**—Standing committees included: child welfare, education, living costs, social hygiene, uniform laws, women in industry, international cooperation to prevent war, legislation, and efficiency in government.

**1925**—The state organization was incorporated as the League of Women Voters of Kansas.

**1926**—LWVK studied sterilization of the unfit, due to a situation at the Institution in Beloit which had aroused a storm of public interest.

**1927**—The League worked against the Equal Rights Amendment because the law was considered "too sweeping in scope and liable to varied interpretation, thus causing endless litigation." Supported the Child Labor amendment.

**1931**—LWVK pushed the enactment of the Standard Milk Ordinance.

**1932**—The League successfully campaigned against the ratification of a proposed amendment to the State Constitution to limit taxes on real and personal property. Studied adequate financing for state libraries.

**1956**—The League discovered millions of Kansas taxpayer dollars on deposit in Kansas banks earning no interest.

League action resulted in substantial benefits to the taxpayer by mandating interest on revenue deposits.

**1965**—The state League studied county government in Kansas. Many local Leagues had studied their local county governments, but found local officials unable to make changes due to a lack of authority at the county level. The state study enabled LWVK to lobby for changes in state law to bring about the changes our members supported.

**1966**—The year of the tornado—a tornado destroyed the LWVK office and many materials were lost.

**Standing committees in 1924 included: child welfare, education, living costs, social hygiene, uniform laws, women in industry, international cooperation, legislation, and efficiency in government.**

**1967**—At the suggestion of Alf Landon, the League's state convention invited the heads of all the farm organizations, the executive secretary of the AFL-CIO, the state Chamber of Commerce, the Kansas members of the national Chamber of Commerce, and Senator Carlson, to speak on the same platform at the same time about the President's trade legislation in Washington, which it was feared would not be approved without the help of Kansans and other delegations from the mid-west. As Landon said, "that broke the issue wide open in Kansas," and in the end, all the Kansas delegation voted for the Kennedy tariff legislation and influenced members of congress from other mid-western states.

**1972**—Delegates to national convention vote to support the Equal Rights Amendment.

**1974**—LWVK began working to preserve part of our state's natural heritage in a

Tallgrass Prairie Park. Membership in the organization was opened to men.

**1984**—League members in Kansas joined with colleagues from the Missouri side of the state line to assist in hosting the Presidential Debate between President Reagan and former Vice President Walter Mondale in Kansas City, Missouri, sponsored by the national organization.

**1988**—LWVK and the Secretary of State formed the "Committee of '92" (the year reapportionment of the state's congressional districts would be finalized) to promote a constitutional amendment to permit Kansas to use the Federal census rather than the expensive and less reliable state census.

**1989**—LWVK adopted a Voter Advocacy Project which obtained data from 4,317 Kansans.

**1990**—"Why Don't Americans Vote" was a symposium co-sponsored by LWVK and the University of Kansas.

**1993**—The League inaugurated the ongoing Paraguay Project, cooperating with citizens of that country to exchange strategies and resources for strengthening democracy. The National Voter Registration Act ("Motor Voter") was signed into law by President Clinton. Kansas Leaguers and members across the U. S. had worked hard to support this legislation.

**1996**—LWVK cooperated with the Secretary of State, Department of Education, and Kids Voting to provide voters guides for Kansas students.

**2000**—LWVK took a position in support of a living wage.

**2001**—LWVK announced its position on the privatization of children's service by the state of Kansas, following two years of monitoring the changes and two years of study.

**2005**—LWVK celebrates 85 years of women's votes.

*Information for these articles came from the League of Women Voters of Kansas website, [www.lwvk.org](http://www.lwvk.org).*

## Kassebaum Toasts 85th Year of Women's Suffrage, Aug. 26, 7p.m.

Former Kansas senator, Nancy Kassebaum Baker, will speak in Wichita on "The Challenges of Change," to celebrate 85 years of votes for women. At 6:45pm, music from Salina League member Ann Zimmerman will help open the evening, organized by the Wichita League of Women Voters and other groups as part of a series of events celebrating the 85th anniversary of women's suffrage.

August 26 was the exact date in 1920 when the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified by Congress giving women across the country the right to vote.

The location will be Wichita State University's Metropolitan Complex, 5015 E. 29th Street North (29th and Oliver). The event is free and open to the public.

Kassebaum Baker represented Kansas in the U.S. Senate for 18 years. She was the first woman Senator not to begin her term as a replacement for her husband. Kansans elected the popular Republican senator to Congress for three terms until 1996, when she chose not to run again. She is the daughter of former Kansas Gov. Alf Landon and is currently married to Howard Baker, a former U.S. senator who is now serves as a U.S. ambassador.

## LEAGUE MEMBERS GATHER FOR POPCORN & MOVIE

Late in June, Salina League members met to watch *Iron-Jawed Angels*, the award-winning HBO movie depicting the final years of the American struggle for women's voting rights.

Hillary Swank starred as young activist Alice Paul., and Anjelica Huston as Carrie Chapman Catt, undaunted suffragist from the previous generation.

The film apparently held very closely to the true story, showing the generations of women clashing with each other while aiming for the same goals. When the country entered WWI, conflict arose over picketing the White House for women's rights. The picketing was seen by many as treasonous at a time when the country should be unified against the wartime enemy. Others continued the sidewalk vigil and were eventually arrested for "obstructing traffic." As more and more women were incarcerated, Alice Paul caused a national stir when she quietly started a hunger strike and word of it leaked out to the press.

President Wilson finally supported the 19th Amendment as a war morale issue. In 1920, the last state needed for ratification, Tennessee, passed the measure by one vote when a key legislator received a telegram from his mother during the voting and changed his vote.

John & Patsy Zimmerman hosted the movie. Their daughter, League member Ann Zimmerman, provided the DVD and refreshments. Also present were Ted & Marge Mintun, Bill & Mary Anne Powell, and Ruth and Elizabeth Cathcart-Rake.

If you would like to borrow Ann's DVD of the movie, please contact her.

## STATE LEAGUE BEGINS MENTAL HEALTH STUDY

The League of Women Voters of Kansas began their study of Mental Health services this month. The group, headed by Liz Smith from Lawrence met Saturday, August 6, in Topeka.

The first tasks are to define the scope of the study, establish time lines, and determine methods for working with the local Leagues.

The study will include a review of state and federal laws and policies, identifying best practices from other states.

This important study will make recommendations regarding Mental Health Services and needs for special populations, such as veteran, children, correctional facilities

inmates, college students, Seniors, people with addictions and others who have specific needs.

There is currently a great need for services for people who experience developmental disabilities and mental illness, described as "dually diagnosed."

Jan Mendel and Sid Gray from the Salina League have expressed an interest in participating with the State study group. If you would like to join them, please contact Gina McDonald.

We will be hearing much more about this study in the near future. The League will complete the study in two years.

## OBSERVER REPORTS

The League has a long tradition of appointing "Observers" to public bodies—individuals who voluntarily attend the meetings of city or county commissions, board meetings or other steering committees of groups whose dealings are open to the public and whose actions affect the citizens of a community. These observers do not take actions at the meetings—they simply report back to the league on any topics of significance.

In Salina, observers cover the city commission (Carmen Wilson), the planning commission (Lavelle Frick), the county commission (Donita Michaelsen), housing Authority (Jan Mendell), library Board (formerly Abner Perney, now Mike Wilson), recreation commission (open), and the board of education (Jennifer Kay-Higgins).

Observer Reports are only occasionally printed in the VOTER. But with several new activities at the Salina Public Library, we include Mike Wilson's June report here.

## LIBRARY BOARD OBSERVER REPORT

Public Comments: none. Visitors: none. Community Learning and Skill Sharing (CLASS): Coordinator Lori Brack discussed the tentative fall schedule which will begin September 6. About 60% of the instructors are volunteers; the remaining are paid. There will be 110 individual sessions for which fees will be charged. Free sessions include computer classes, and other discussions and forums. Various computer topics offered by the library

## NEW SALINA LWY MEMBERS

The Salina League welcomes new members **DON and DAWN MERRIMAN!**

Don has been Saline County Clerk/Election Officer since January 2000, when he was appointed to finish the term of Shirley Jacques. He was elected in November 2000 and again in November 2004. A little-known fact about the office of County Clerk is that it is guided by Kansas Statute, where it is mentioned 993 times. There is much to do!

Don is a native Salinan, graduating from KWU with a business degree in 1970. He worked for Salina Supply for 27 years as a heating and cooling engineer.

Dawn grew up in Smolan and graduated from Marymount College with a degree in education.

Don and Dawn met on the Oakdale tennis court in summer 1970, were married in October 1971. In 1979, their son Craig was born disabled, a result of oxygen deprivation.

Dawn and her sister founded "Choices Network" in January 1999 to work with families with disabled mem-

bers, hiring personal assistants. They have 135 clients and their families, with 185 folks on the payroll. The office is in As-saria. With this kind of assistance, son

*Welcome!*

have been included in the CLASS sessions.

Paradise Coffee Shop: The electrical work is complete but not the plumbing. There was some discussion concerning indoor and outdoor signage. The tentative opening date is July 1, 2005.

Policy Proposals:

Travel for business purposes: Employees should be encouraged to use the library van if it is available. They will be paid for 8 hours per day plus travel time. This first reading of the policy was approved.

Disposal of Library Equipment and Furniture: Discussion of the disposal of obsolete and irreparable items. This first reading of the policy was approved.

Proposed budget for 2006: Efforts will be made to avoid an increase in the mill levy. Percent pay increases begin on January 1 and step increases (there are twelve) begin on the anniversary of the hire date.

The board discussed the addition of a half-time person to perform custodial and other duties. More discussion of the budget will occur at the July meeting; final vote will

occur at the August meeting.

Reports:

Financial – through May 31: The board discussed the "revenue / expenditure report" and "transactions by account" report.

Statistical--About 1000 patrons use the library facilities daily. This includes the summer reading program, computer usage, and other activities. Book usage has had a large increase, and the Technology Center is doing well.

Sales tax-- The library will begin paying sales tax on items sold—primarily computer disks. Other items include books purchased at a discount by employees. Less than \$80 per year is accumulated through sales. Discussion covered how much staff time will be spent preparing tax statements and whether a tax will be collected on patrons' photocopies and enrollment fees for the CLASS session.

Director's Report (Joe McKenzie): The old boiler has been removed and the new one not yet installed. He is the chair of a state Task Force on Continuing Education. Other topics in his report were mentioned earlier in this article.

**League of Women Voters of Salina**

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Salina, KS 67402-0502

**JOIN US**

**MAKE HISTORY by joining the League of Women Voters of Salina or renewing your League Membership. It is a perfect time to join the League to ensure you do not miss the action. Please take a moment now to become a member of The League of Women Voters of Salina.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes, I want to add my voice to yours by joining the League at the following level:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Single Membership (circle one)
  - Contributing Level*      \$50.00
  - Sustaining Level*      \$40.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership (circle one)
  - Contributing Level*      \$75.00
  - Sustaining Level*      \$60.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student/supported or other      \$20.00

\_\_\_\_\_ **I am unable to join the League at this time, but enclosed is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.**

For more information, please contact:

**Mary Anne Powell, Membership Chairperson  
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Telephone: 823-8041 Email: wbpowell@ksu.edu**

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