

V O T E R



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Website: www.lwvofsalinaks.com

President, Gina McDonald
ginaacd@aol.com

Editor, Ann Zimmerman
ann@annzimmerman.com

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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.

February 13 "LUNCH & LEARN" to Discuss PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



Salina's League of Women Voters will host a panel discussion about Public Transportation in Salina on February 13. The panel will be Patrick Wallerius of OCCK, Tom Mulhern of the Commission on Aging and Donnie Mars, Salina mayor.

Last year, several groups jointly held a public meeting to discuss the transportation is-

sue. The meeting turned into a discussion of bicycle transportation. While bike riding is good, it is not an option for many of the disabled, elderly or for those traveling across town with small children. Advocates for those groups were frustrated.

Public transportation in Salina and Saline County is already provided by several different organizations, including OCCK, Commission on Aging, HOTLINE, Volunteer Connection, Salina Regional Health Center, and several private taxi companies. Rides are given door-to-door, with no fixed-route service. Subsidized providers operate independently of each other but collaborate in planning, funding and delivering services. Public transportation in Saline County is funded with city, county, state and federal government grant dollars, provider-generated funds, United Way, and rider fees. In 2000, 160,000 rides were provided, and usage has increased every year since then.

Join us for a discussion of this important issue. NOTE our new location—the Prescott meeting room on the lower level of the Salina Public Library.

DATE:
Tuesday, February 13
TIME:
12:15-1:15
PLACE:
Salina Public Library
Prescott Room (on the lower level)

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Molly Ivans died last week.

She was a reporter who didn't care to be confined by the rules of a conglomerate, so she wrote her own columns and printed independently. She also wrote a number of books and was a contributing writer to the "Nation," a pretty left-wing magazine.

For about the last year, the *Salina Journal* printed her column on the editorial page on Fridays.

She was a maverick, much as I suppose Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were in their day.

Ivans said things people didn't always want to hear, and when she saw corruption, she wasn't afraid to report it. She did research and had facts to back up what she said. She took on the Texas Legislature and helped to clean it up.

I wonder who will take her place. I wonder who will be the new generation of leaders in the Women's rights move-

ment.

I heard a story on National Public Radio a few weeks ago that talked about how the country isn't "ready" for a woman President. Women who were being interviewed were saying that they liked Hillary Clinton, but she could never get elected.



When Nancy Pelosi was sworn in as Speaker of the House and when Kathleen Sebelius was inaugurated for the second time, the press talked about what clothes they wore.

Everyone knew that Governor Se-

belius wore ruby slippers to the ball, but I bet not many of you read her speech. It was one of the finest speeches I've ever heard. But that wasn't reported. One of my favorite lines in the speech is:

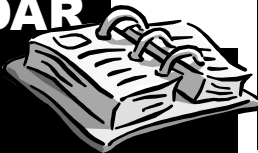
"Together, we're humble enough to reach for God's hand and hopeful enough to greet every day with confidence in our ability to change the world."

Molly Ivans would have reported on the speech.

So the League of Woman Voters must continue. We must judge candidates by "the content of their character," as Dr. King told us. We must encourage young girls and boys to "greet every day with confidence in our ability to change the world."

—Gina McDonald

CALENDAR



FEBRUARY

- 13 Lunch & Learn
- 17 Observers Meeting, Capers
- 20 Board Meeting
- 27 Primary Election

MARCH

- 8 Day at the Capitol
- 13 Lunch & Learn
- 20 Board Meeting

APRIL

- 3 General election
- 17 Board Meeting
- tba Annual Meeting
- 28 State Convention, Wichita

MAY

- 15 Board Meeting

JUNE

- 9-11 Nat'l Council, Wash. DC

LOOKING FOR A TAX DEDUCTION? Remember the Education Fund

This time of year, many people have taxes on their minds. If you are planning ahead for next year, remember that donations to the LWV Education Fund can meet this need for you plus provide Salina LWV with funds for many of our activities.

During the past year, LWV Salina used Education Fund monies to pay for expenses incurred from our City-County Consolidation Study. We also paid expenses from our Lunch and Learn programs and Candidate Forums from the Education Fund. Our Tri-Rivers Fair Booth, where we register voters, meet the public, and do a straw poll, is also paid for with education funds.

To keep our local dues reasonable, LWV Salina basic membership dues only cover the dues for LWV-Kansas and LWV-

US. Our "sustaining level" membership level gives a few additional dollars for local action. But the Education Fund can support any activity not involving lobbying or membership recruitment.

Checks should be made to: LWV Education Fund, P.O. Box 502, Salina, KS 67402. Treasurer Donita Michaelsen then sends these checks to LWV-US where the monies are kept until we request payment for our activities/programs that qualify. Decisions of what will be paid using Education Funds are made by our local Board and must meet guidelines. Education Fund monies sent from Salina are only used for Salina programs and activities.

Send a check for the Education Fund today!

QUESTIONING SALINA CANDIDATES

On Friday, February 16, League members will gather for an informal discussion to prepare questions for candidates leading up to the General Election.

On April 3, local citizens will be electing new city commissioners and USD 305 school board members.

Our Salina League is again taking on the role of informing the public about the positions of our local candidates. Many issues important to League members will depend on the viewpoints of those elected to office.

Together with the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, we are sponsoring a Candidates' Forum in March. This month, we must decide on pertinent questions for the candidates to answer. Their answers will be printed in the League Voter's Guide.

We plan to make the Voter's Guide available to the public on the League's website (www.lwvofsalinaks.com) as well as in printed form.



Members! Please save noon for lunch at Capers on February 16. Join us in recommending questions for the candidates to answer in our Voters Guide. These questions will be approved by the League Board and then sent to those candidates surviving the primary on February 27.

LOCAL LEAGUE MEMBERS GATHER TO ANSWER MENTAL HEALTH QUESTIONS IN STATE STUDY

The statewide study by LWV Kansas on Mental Health needs and services is approaching the finish line. As a part of that process, several local League members gathered on the evening of January 30 to answer the consensus questions drafted by the state study committee.

Their answers will become part of the final determinations on the new policy position. The study committee's recommendations will be up for a vote at this year's state convention April 28 in Wichita.

Here are the questions they considered:

1. Community Mental Health Centers have the primary responsibility for meeting the needs of all Kansans accessing the public mental health system. The Community Mental Health Centers are the single point of entry for publicly-funded mental health services (inpatient and outpatient) and serve as a safety net for Kansas citizens. How is this system working, including strengths, barriers to the consumer, and gaps in service? What changes, if any, are needed?
2. What are some strategies to prevent or decrease problems among the mentally ill, such as homelessness, incarceration/criminalization, unmet physical health needs, and failure to access mental health treatment when it is needed?
3. The demand for acute psychiatric treatment provided by the state mental health hospitals has been increasing over the last four years. At times, the actual hospital census has exceeded budgeted census, placing a serious strain on hospital resources. This problem has been addressed by implementing system-wide census management, which focuses on diversion and discharge----a solution that one county attorney has called "treat 'em and street 'em." How could this problem be addressed more effectively?
4. One half of the total funding that supports Community Mental Health Centers and one-fourth of the total funding that sup-

ports State Mental Hospitals is derived from Medicaid. In view of budget limitations, how should the state allocate funding for mental health services, including issues related to Medicaid Reform? Some recommendations from professional organizations are:

- A) Maximize Medicaid payments
 - B) Provide supplementary state funding to adequately support state mental health hospitals
 - C) Make dollars follow the person
 - D) Fund services which demonstrate positive recovery and resilience
 - E) Implement full insurance parity for mental health care
5. The President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health--Goals and Recommendations are attached. By Executive Order 04-10, the Governor of Kansas designated the Governor's Mental Health Services Planning Council to be the coordinating body in Kansas for utilizing the New Freedom Commission Report. Should the League support this document?

[NOTE: The following is greatly condensed from its complete form.]

The President's
New Freedom Commission Report:
"Achieving the Promise---Transforming
Mental Health Care in America"
Goals and Recommendations:
Goal 1: Americans understand that mental health is essential to overall health.
Goal 2: Mental health care is consumer and family driven.
Goal 3: Disparities in mental health services are eliminated.
Goal 4: Early mental health screening, assessment and referral to services are common practices.
Goal 5: Excellent mental health care is delivered and research is accelerated.
Goal 6: Technology is used to access mental health care and information.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW BOARD

In the fall of 2004, Governor Sebelius established the fourteen-member Fatality Review Board (FRB). Here is information from the FRB's 2006 annual report.

The FRB only reviews closed cases of homicide/suicide and any other deaths related to domestic violence.

Cases are reviewed with **two principal goals:** **1)** To continue informing the public about the insidious nature of domestic violence and motivating the public to find solutions to end domestic violence; and **2)** To identify systemic changes within all the organizations and agencies that work with domestic violence victims, offenders and families to learn new ways of reducing the number of fatalities by better identification of risk factors and improvement in the coordination of services that our State provides.

In 2006, the FRB reviewed domestic-violence-related fatalities that occurred in 2004. According to the KBI's '04 Domestic Violence and Rape Report, 25 domestic violence-related homicides occurred in Kansas in 2004 as reported by law enforcement agencies. Of those cases, the FRB received information on seven cases. Of these seven, one case was not reviewed because it was under appeal. FRB members are continuing to gather additional information on three cases and three cases were reviewed. The three cases reviewed are summarized here:

MARY, age 46, Douglas County

On July 28, 2004, Mary was strangled by her husband, Marty, 45. Marty initially told law enforcement he woke up about 6 a.m. on July 28, 2004, and found his wife in bed in a different room, not breathing. Marty was later arrested after a coroner conducted an autopsy and ruled the death a homicide.

Mary and Marty were married for 25 years and had two children – a daughter, 14, and son, 12. The children testified of hearing their mother scream the night she was killed as if she could not breathe.

Mary and Marty were involved in their church and the children went to a private Christian school. Mary worked at the KU library, providing most of the family's income. She also handled Marty's part time work for Prepaid Legal Services and did all the accounting and recordkeeping for Marty's carpentry business. Co-workers and friends said Mary worried about finances a lot.

Mary is survived by her two children. Marty was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years. He currently is incarcerated with the Kansas Department of Corrections in Lansing Correctional Facility.

DARREL, age 46, Scott County

On July 8, 2004, Darrel was shot and killed by his wife, Keitha, 47. After shooting Darrel, Keitha then shot and killed herself. Darrel and Keitha had been married for almost 26 years. They separated in January 2003. In early 2004, Darrel filed for divorce. They had three children who were 23, 20 and 17.

At the time, Darrel was going through bankruptcy and Keitha was requesting \$3.5 million as part of the divorce. The day before Darrel was killed, he and Keitha had a meeting with his bankruptcy attorneys.

DONNA, age 72, Sedgwick County

On December 6 2004, Donna was strangled and stabbed four times with an ice pick by her husband, Lawrence, 78. After killing Donna, Lawrence set the house on fire. The house burned internally and put itself out. Lawrence died of carbon dioxide poisoning. Donna and Lawrence had been married for 56 years. They had three children, a son and daughter in their 50's and a daughter in her 30's.

Their children said Lawrence was controlling and mentally and physically abused Donna. He tried to strangle her a couple of times, but police were never called to their home. For the last two to three years of Donna's life, she suffered from cancer. This caused more stress in their relationship when she could no longer take care of

Lawrence and he had to care for her.

Family members feared something would happen between Donna and Lawrence shortly before their deaths and they removed guns and unnecessary medications from their home. Donna's sister also took Donna to visit some assisted living facilities in the area. Donna found one she and Lawrence were going to move into, however their deaths preceded their move.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2006:

Develop screening for health care professionals: Routine screenings for domestic violence by health care providers should be institutionalized by medical offices and hospital systems. Health care providers, including home health care providers, should be trained to screen for domestic violence, appropriately intervene and provide referrals to community organizations knowledgeable about domestic violence.

Establish screening by mental health and substance abuse providers:

Training on domestic violence should be required for professionals providing mental health and substance abuse treatment. In addition, mental health and substance abuse providers should use a standardized assessment tool to screen for victimization as well as for batterers.

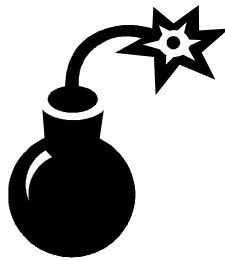
Recognize elder abuse issues:

Too often the screening of the elderly does not take into consideration domestic violence. In almost all of the elder abuse and neglect incidents with a known perpetrator, the perpetrator is a family member, and two-thirds of the perpetrators are adult children or spouses. In homicides involving older couples, men killing their female intimate partner often is the result.

Create culturally sensitive training:

Various cultural and language barriers can make it difficult for victims and their families to access services to help protect themselves and save their lives. Understanding and respecting how these barriers impact family and relationship dynamics is essential to effectively assist all domestic violence victims and their families.

Salina League member, Janice Norlin, is a member of the DVFRB.



KANSAS LEGISLATURE

This year, Janis McMillen begins her final legislative session as State League president. In periodic updates during the legislative session, she passes along her observations on the progress of bills of interest to League members. She is assisted this year by Paul Johnson, whom she describes as a “long-time advocate for issues that affect people in poverty.”

The legislative session began in mid-January. Janis’s first report gives the committee assignments. She notes that “some of the House committees were abandoned and/or coalesced into one committee, i.e., Education (it will cover both K-12 and Higher Education).”

Janis is looking for members around the state who are willing to follow a particular legislative issue. If this is something that you could take on, please contact Janis, or let any of your local board members know, and they will pass along the information to Janis.

KANSAS SENATE

Leadership: President, Steve Morris; Vice President, John Vratil; Majority Leader, Derek Schmidt; Minority Leader, Anthony Hensley

Agriculture: Chair, Mark Taddiken; Vice Chair, Roger Pine; Ranking Minority: marci francisco

Assessment and Taxation: Chair, Barbara Allen; Vice Chairs, Derek Schmidt and Les Donovan; Ranking Minority: Janis Lee

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

Education: Chair, Jean Schodorf; Vice Chair, John Vratil; Ranking Minority, Janis Lee

Elections and Local Government: Chair, Tim Huelskamp; Vice Chair, Roger Reitz; Ranking Minority, Donald Betts

Federal and State Affairs: Chair, Pete Brungardt; Vice Chair, Roger Reitz; Ranking Minority, Mark Gilstrap

Financial Institutions & Insurance: Chair, Ruth Teichman; Vice Chair, David Wysong;

Ranking Minority, Chris Steineger
Health Care Strategies: Chair: Susan Wagle; Vice Chair, Pete Brungardt; Ranking Minority, D. Haley

Judiciary: Chair, John Vratil; Vice Chair, Terry Bruce; Ranking Minority, Greta Goodwin

Natural Resources: Chair Carolyn McGinn; Vice Chair, Ralph Ostmeyer; Ranking Minority, marci francisco

Public Health: Chair Jim Barnett; Vice Chair, Vicki Schmidt; Ranking Minority, David Haley

Transportation: Chair Les Donovan; Vice Chair, Dennis Wilson; Ranking Minority, Mark Gilstrap

Utilities: Chair Jay Emler; Vice Chair, Pat Apple; Ranking Minority, Janis Lee

Ways and Means: Chair Dwayne Umbarger; Vice Chair, Jay Emler; Ranking Minority: Laura Kelly



KANSAS HOUSE

Leadership: Speaker, Melvin Neufeld; Majority Leader Ray Merrick; Speaker pro tem Don Dahl; Minority Leader Dennis McKinney.

Appropriations: Chair Sharon Schwartz, Vice-chair Lee Tafarielli, Ranking Minority Bill Feuerborn

Agriculture and Natural Resources: Chair John Faber, Vice-chair Forrest Knox, Ranking Minority Josh Svaty.

Commerce and Labor: Chair: Steve Brunk, Vice-chair Mike Kiegerl, Ranking Minority Louis Ruiz

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Education: Chair Clay Aurand, Vice-chair

Deena Horst, Ranking Minority Sue Storm
Energy and Utilities: Chair Carl Holmes, Vice-chair Rob Olson, Ranking Minority Annie Kuether

Elections and Governmental Organization: Chair Mike Burgess, Vice-chair Ted Powers, Ranking Minority Tom Sawyer

Federal and State Affairs: Chair Arlen Siegfried, Vice-chair Steve Huebert, Ranking Minority Mike Peterson

Government Efficiency and Technology: Chair Jim Morrison, Vice-chair Stephanie Sharp, Ranking Minority Judy Loganbill

Health and Human Services: Chair Brenda Landwehr, Vice-chair Peggy Mast, Ranking Minority Geraldine Flaharty

Insurance and Financial Institutions: Chair Clark Shultz, Vice-chair Anthony Brown, Ranking Minority Nile Dillmore

Judiciary: Chair Mike O’Neal, Vice-chair Lance Kinzer, Ranking Minority Jan Pauls

Tax: Chair Kenny Wilk, Vice-chair Richard Carlson, Ranking Minority Tom Holland

Transportation: Chair Gary Hayzlett, Vice-chair Virgil Peck, Ranking Minority Margaret Long

Veterans, Military and Homeland Security: Chair Don Myers, Vice-chair Mario Goico, Ranking Minority Candy Ruff

U.S. CONGRESS

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

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

GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE AND MIGRATION

—By Dorrit Marks

Globalization is stimulating migration. This growing movement of people has implications for the U.S. Expanding international trade, finance, investment and information flows tend to accentuate economic insecurity and migration pressures. The Mexican peso crisis of 1995, for example, contributed to a surge in illegal immigration to the U.S.

Migration pressures on the U.S. and within the Americas region is expected to continue to rise in the next decade. The report finds that despite strong economic prospects in Mexico, disparities in living standards, the increased demand for labor in the U.S., and immigration rules regarding family ties will sustain Mexico as the largest source of authorized and unauthorized immigration to the United States. Central America will remain the second-largest source of unauthorized immigrants, and a change in the government of Cuba or deterioration of the political, human rights or economic situation in Haiti could lead again to mass emigration to the U.S. from these countries.

Immigration Demographics

Immigrants are generally young and mobile. They go where there is work. Immigrants communicate with their compatriots still at home, letting them know that the job market is flat in one area and booming in another. Refugee resettlement in the U.S. has affected smaller cities such as Utica, NY, Des Moines, IA, or Spokane, WA.

Remittances

The flow of remittances (the transfer of money by foreign workers to their families and communities in their home countries) from the U.S. has reached record amounts and represents a major source of income for millions of individuals and communities. Latin American households receive \$60 billion annually from remittances worldwide. This is more than these countries receive in aid from the U.S. and from institutions such as the World Bank.

California topped all states with \$13.2 billion in remittances, followed by Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey and Georgia. The greatest percentage *in-*

creases in remittances are found in states such as Iowa and Arkansas. Thirteen states registered more than 100 percent growth rates in remittances in 2006.

The money foreign-born workers send home is mainly used to cover basic necessities. Remitted funds help offset the negative effects of trade deficits where imports exceed exports. Remittances also help finance and improve access to education and health care for families in the home countries.

Remittance money is also being used for investment purposes in some developing countries such as Guatemala. In urban Mexico, U.S. remittances were the source of almost one-fifth of capital invested in micro-enterprises. Mexico received remittances totaling more than \$24 billion in 2006, the second largest source of foreign earnings after receipts from oil exports.

Remittances bring negative consequences as well, particularly the dependence created in families who use them to reduce their work effort.

Unintended Effect of U.S. Policies

U.S. policies have inadvertently increased unauthorized immigration. U.S. farm subsidies are an example. In the U.S., corn, cotton, wheat, rice and soy beans receive billions of dollars in government subsidies, which allow U.S. farmers to sell corn, for instance, at prices below cost. Corn is the centerpiece of the Mexican diet. The Mexican corn sector is in acute crisis now due to subsidized corn imports from the U.S. American corn prices in Mexico are 15% to 20% lower than the cost to produce corn in the U.S., displacing nearly a million farmers in the Mexican market since NAFTA went into effect in 1994. Many of these Mexicans emigrate to escape rural poverty. Large Mexican corn purchasers buy U.S. corn not only because of the lower price but also because buyers that contract with U.S. exporters have access to U.S. Commodity Credit Corporation loans at 7% for 3 years as opposed to the 25% to 30% rates they pay to Mexican lenders. The situation is only expected to worsen in 2008 when Mexico must comply with a NAFTA deadline to totally eliminate its corn

and bean import tariffs.

On the positive side, cheaper corn lowers the price Mexican consumers pay for tortillas and to feed their cows. And, in the U.S., corn prices may rise because of the role of corn in ethanol production as an alternative fuel for automobiles.

NAFTA

Because of NAFTA, trade is now 55% of Mexico's gross domestic product compared to 30% in 1990. Foreign investment is up by more than 225% since 1994.

Despite these positive effects, there are economic problems in Mexico. Real wages for most Mexicans are lower than when NAFTA took effect. And Mexican wages are diverging from, rather than converging with, U.S. wages, despite the fact that Mexican worker productivity has increased dramatically.

NAFTA has caused Mexico to become an export-dependent economy to Mexico's detriment. Component parts are imported, processed and assembled for re-export without enough value added to greatly benefit the Mexican economy.

Mexico's Labor Market

Many new workers entering the job market in developing countries will fail to find work; some will decide to emigrate. Mexico, for example, has a new job creation rate of 700,000, while the number of new workers entering the Mexican market is nearly one million annually. Mexico also has a brain drain -- nearly a third of all Mexicans with advanced degrees leave Mexico for the United States.

There are positive developments: The Mexican government is funding the Mexican Talent Network, a non-profit organization to help engineers and technology professionals find opportunities and contacts abroad while keeping their ties with Mexico. A Mexican manufacturer of microscopes, a recent beneficiary, received assistance in making contacts to help tap the U.S. pharmaceutical market. The newly-elected president of Mexico, Felipe Calderon, plans to create an investment climate in Mexico that will attract U.S. investment. He is focusing on improving labor

(Continued on page 7)

OBSERVERS MEETING

Sat., Feb. 17, 9am, Capers

League Observers will gather on February 17 over refreshments at Capers to share what they have learned this past year. All members are welcome to attend what promises to be a lively, interesting report on public action around Salina.

“Observers,” in the jargon of the League of Women Voters, keep an eye on public meetings. An observer is assigned to a board or commission and attends all the meetings of that group, watching, listening but not commenting. Salina observers cover such groups as the city commission, school board, library board, Salina Housing Authority, Central Kansas Mental Health, Airport Authority, and several others.

Kaye Crawford, Observer chair, calls the meeting each year to give observers a chance to meet with their counterparts and share the information they have gleaned.

(Continued from page 6)

competitiveness and creating jobs.

Narrowing the income gap between Mexico, the U.S. and Canada may be the only way to stop the flow of migrants. The North American Investment Fund (NAIF) funded by Mexico, the U.S. and Canada, and sponsored by Senator John Cornyn (R TX), would be used to build highways, roads and broadband internet lines in southern Mexico, thereby connecting the south to North America. The effort is projected to double Mexico's growth rate and reduce the income gap with the U.S. by 20% in a decade. This investment would seem to be a more effective way to stem unauthorized immigration than a fence.

Foreign-Born Professionals

In the U.S., discussions about the immigration of scientists and engineers focus primarily on the extent to which foreign-born professionals displace native workers. These high-tech immigrants, however, affect more than labor supply and wages. In today's global economy, foreign-born engineers start new businesses and generate jobs and wealth at least as fast as their U.S. counterparts.

Today, rather than just sending home remittances, more and more skilled U.S. immigrants eventually return home. Those professionals who remain in America often become part of transnational communities that link the U.S. to other economies.

WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS!

CARROLL JUNGEL has joined the League because the League deals with important issues like alternative energy and the proposed Expo Center. Carroll returned to Salina in 1990 to be near his mother. He had a cow-calf operation north of Salina, from which he retired six years ago. He was a pilot with the USAF for eleven years, then worked with General Foods Corporation in Illinois, with Post Cereals in Battle Creek Michigan, and in California. His wife, Karilea, is a novelist and a paralegal who works for Norton, Wasserman, Jones & Kelly, LLC. Carroll and Karilea live at 188 Millview Rd. Carroll's email address is Kansas2@cox.net.

JACK SHEAHON, husband of League member Anita Huntley, is a new member. Jack has practiced law in Salina for about twenty years. He has joined League at Anita's encouragement because he is interested in League issues, such as freedom, democracy and fairness for all. Jack and Anita have two children: Zach, who will graduate from KU in May,

and Jessica, a high school junior. They live at 511 Fairdale Rd.

BRUCE WYATT joins his wife, Margaret, as a LWV member. They have two children and live on a farm west of Salina on West State Street Road. Their daughter is a senior at Beloit College, Wisconsin, and their son is a senior at Salina Central. Bruce was born in Salina. He attended Wichita public schools, graduated from Wichita Southeast High School and worked summers on the farm where his family now lives. He is a graduate of Carleton College in Minnesota and the University of Chicago Law School. He practiced law in Chicago, then served as attorney and, later, chief legal officer of an international giftware and consumer products company in western Massachusetts. Bruce's family moved to Salina in 1999. He practices law in Salina and works with the farm. Bruce is a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Rotary, and the Executive Board of the Boy Scout Coronado Area Council. He served on the Kansas Board of Education from 2000 until 2004.

The new immigrant entrepreneurs create new jobs and wealth, as well as coordinating information flows and promoting trade and investment with their home countries. A 1% increase in the number of first-generation immigrants from a given country translates into a nearly 0.5% increase in exports to that country.

Conclusions

An effective overhaul of the U.S. immigration system must address the global integration of labor markets. Immigrant influx is the product of changing U.S. demographics, global development and increasingly easy international communications. U.S. immigration policy debate is usually considered a domestic issue, but its consequences have important implications for other countries as well.

Illegal migration is a regional issue. Nearly 80 percent of the unauthorized population in the U.S. comes from Latin America, primarily from Mexico and Central America. The goal should be to shift economic integration into a healthier pattern, moving away from the mutually-reinforcing dependencies on remittances and cheap labor to a system of regulated labor

flows and economic interdependence. Remittances to migrant countries of origin, emigration, or current foreign assistance programs are not likely to sufficiently develop regional economies to have the necessary broad-based impact to mitigate the root causes of migration.

Pressures to emigrate from developing countries will remain intense, fueled by poverty, lack of jobs, population growth and political instability. At the same time, globalization will increase access to information about lifestyles and opportunities in industrialized countries. The global integration of the labor market for both highly skilled and unskilled workers is also a continuing trend. Immigration laws and policies should take these realities into account, along with the effect of other laws and policies such as farm subsidies and NAFTA.

Dorrit Marks, LWV of Miami-Dade County, FL, is a member of the Immigration Study Committee. Full text and footnotes for this article are found at the national League of Women Voters website: www.lwvus.org.

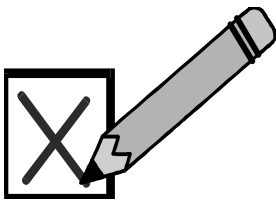
League of Women Voters of Salina

PO Box 502

Salina, KS 67402-0502

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JOIN US



JOIN IN THE ACTION: Become a member of the League of Women Voters of Salina or renew your League Membership. Today is the right time for you to join the League. Please take a moment now to become a member.

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

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

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

For more information, please contact:

Mary Anne Powell, Membership Chairperson
1022 Funston, Salina, Kansas 67401
Telephone: 823-8041 Email: wbpowell@ksu.edu

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