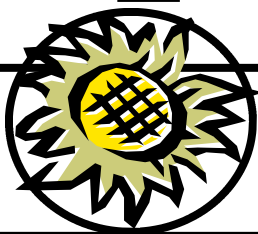


# V O T E R



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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.*

## MARCH 11 LUNCH & LEARN: WILDSCAPING YOUR YARD

Want to improve the environment?  
Start close to home.

Doug Rudick of Smoky Hills Audubon Society will dig into that subject at Lunch & Learn, Tuesday, 12:15 to 1:30pm, March 11, at the library's Prescott Room.

Rudick will discuss ways to landscape with native Kansas plants, using less water and encouraging helpful and beautiful birds and insects. Videos of successful examples will be part of his program. Rudick has wildscaped his own yard in Salina.

Rudick is enthusiastic about his topic. "Water is a big thing," he says. "We just can't live like we have." Wildscaping can make beautiful yards, he adds, with plants such as Ironweed and Rattlesnake-Master. Rudick, a passionate birdwatcher

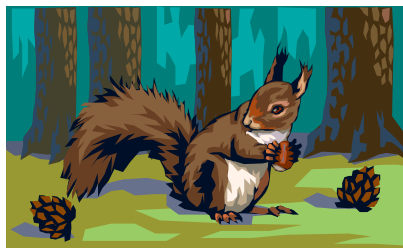
with a modest 120' x 40' yard, has spotted over 70 species of birds around his home.

March is the final Lunch & Learn for this school year. The League has been pleased with the value and success of this year's Lunch & Learns, which include the recent presentation by Salina's Chamber of Commerce CEO as well as panel discussions by city and county commissioners, school board, and Kansas Legal Services.

Lunch & Learn is free and open to the public. The programs are held monthly on the second Tuesday of the month, three times during

the fall and three times during the winter-spring.

Bring your own lunch and feel free to munch during the discussion.



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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## LEAGUE HANDLES HOT ISSUES!

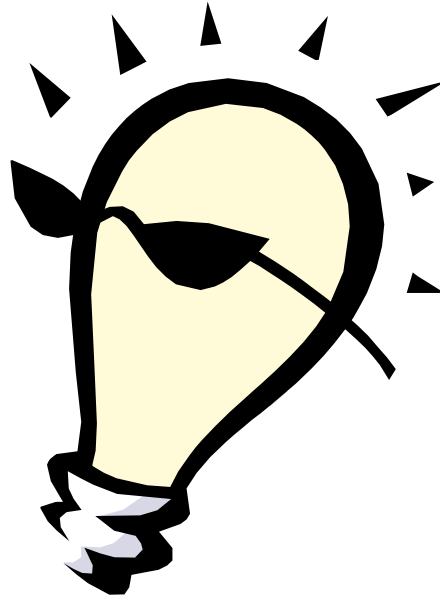
This is the message on one of my pot holders at home. The end of the League year, marked by the Annual Meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 5 (more information on the following page), prompts us to recount our year's activities.

Our booth at the Tri-Rivers Fair offered voter registration and a chance to vote for a presidential candidate in a straw poll.

State Representative Josh Svaty addressed our annual Membership Meeting on August 27, on the subject of energy policies for Kansas.

Last year, League studied the possibility of City government-County government consolidation, resulting in the idea of forming a

joint city-county task force to study the feasibility of such cooperation.



This has not happened formally, but the subject comes up from time to

time and I feel the impetus has come from the League.

Our popular, six-time-per-year Lunch and Learn series continues. We have heard from Kansas Legal Services, the City Commission, the County Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, the USD 305 Board of Education and—coming up—the Audubon Society.

These and other timely issues are what makes the League of Women Voters one of the most relevant volunteer organizations in the community.

New members are always welcome—both men and women.

—Mary Anne Powell

## CALENDAR



### MARCH

- 11 Lunch & Learn
- 15 Day at the Capitol
- 18 Board Meeting

### APRIL

- 15 Board Meeting
- 26 State Council, Topeka

### MAY

- 20 Board Meeting

### JUNE

- 13–17 Nat'l LWV Convention  
Portland, Oregon
- 17 Board Meeting

### JULY

- 15 Board Meeting

## League Had Good Financial Year in 2007:

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The League treasury is solidly in the plus column this year thanks to your generosity. Many members and friends contributed to the League's funds during the past year.

League members donated a total of \$1150 above their basic membership.

Local citizens wanting to support the League's work or to receive the quarterly VOTER without becoming members donated \$500.

Tax deductible contributions to the LWV Education Fund totaled \$545.

With this help from you, Treasurer Donita Michaelsen is happy to be making an upbeat financial report at the annual meeting in April.

# THANKS\$

She especially wants to say, **THANK YOU!** Until recently, rising state and national dues had eaten up nearly every penny of local dues. Last year's dues increase of about five dollars allowed the Salina League some spare change to support its local work. Your extra gifts help even more.

We plan to use the money wisely.

## LEAGUE DAY AT THE CAPITOL Thur., March 13

League members from around the state will gather in Topeka on Thursday, March 13, to discuss legislation and talk with their Representatives and Senators.

### SCHEDULE:

8:30 Gather in Willard Hall, First Presbyterian Church, for coffee and pastries. Please note: Park in state-house lot across the street.

9:00 Paul Johnson, LWVK Legislative Consultant, will provide an update on bills in the Kansas legislature

10:00 Spend time in Capitol attending committee meetings and talking with legislators

12:00 Lunch in the church. Guest speaker, Carol Williams, Kansas

Ethics Commission, Topic: Campaign Finance Reform

1:30 Return to the Capitol as desired.

The cost is \$20 and will include coffee, juice, and pastries in the morning and the noon lunch. Please make checks payable to the League of Women Voters of Kansas and



mail with the names and addresses of all who plan to attend to: LWVK, 618 S. Kansas Ave., Suite B1, Topeka, KS 66603.

To learn which Salina League members are planning to attend League Day at the Capitol, please contact President Mary Anne Powell, 823-8041 or [wbpowell@ksu.edu](mailto:wbpowell@ksu.edu).

## ≧Coming April 5≦ 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Salina League's Annual Meeting is set for **April 5**. Hope you will be there!

The Annual Meeting is your chance to reconnect with local members, elect new officers and board members, share a meal and listen to an insightful keynote address.

**WHERE:** Martinelli's Little Italy Restaurant, 158 S. Santa Fe

**WHEN: Saturday, April 5**

**11:00am** Business meeting

**12 noon** Lunch (order from menu)

**12:45pm** Keynote speaker

*Negotiations for keynote speaker are in progress at press time.*

During the first part of March, you will receive a packet in the mail. It will contain several papers to bring with you to the annual meeting.

Please be part of this important and always thought-provoking event.

## REPORT FROM JANUARY'S PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

About three dozen members gathered January 15, following dinner at Martinelli's Restaurant, for the 2008 Program Planning meeting. This meeting, held most years in January, allows League members to instruct the local and state or national Leagues on matters that need study.

In even years, national positions are considered along with local positions.

"Positions" (as defined in League Lingo on page 6) make up the League's "point of view," and are arrived at through member study and consensus or concurrence, to be used as a basis for League action.

The League takes on studies to determine the wisest course of governmental action—a "position." Then it

relies on those positions in determining what to lobby for with the local, state or federal government.

With each program planning meeting, all studies done in the past must be either retained or discarded.

Discussion was lively.

**Members decided to lobby the local city and county governments on the issue of Schilling water pollution.**

With regard to national positions, members decided to recommend that LWVUS review its position on health care to be sure the position takes into consideration the most recent developments in treatment and costs. Members secondarily recommended addi-

tional national study in the areas of water quantity and allocation, since the national position on water seems to deal exclusively with water quality.

There was much discussion of the best course of action for the local league and its current positions.

In the end, members decided not to take on any new studies, but to rely on existing positions on natural resources, and lobby the local city and county governments on the issue of the toxins in the groundwater under the old Schilling air force base. The pollution is migrating toward Salina's municipal water supply. Margaret and Bruce Wyatt and Ardean Maxey agreed to put together a proposal to bring before the board. The proposal would outline a strategy to press for action on the pollution issue.

## MEMBERS REPORT ON THE SALINE COUNTY CAUCUSES

### REPUBLICAN CAUCUS REPORT

By Margaret Wyatt

Sams Chapel at Kansas Wesleyan University was the site of the Saline County Republican Caucus on Saturday morning, February 9. Doors opened about 9 a.m., and the caucus got started at 10 a.m.

Volunteers at check-in had lists of registered Republicans, apparently for the whole state, on laptop computers, and participants showed identification to get in. Things were very well organized.

At about 10 o'clock, each candidate's official representative was given 10 minutes to speak. If no official representative was present, members from the audience were given one minute apiece—up to 10 speakers per candidate.

There were official representatives for John McCain and Ron Paul. Members from the audience spoke for Mike Huckabee.

After the speeches, voting took place by secret ballot. Organizers estimated that somewhere between 600 and 800 were present, filling the floor level of the chapel, although only 416 votes were cast. The ballots were then counted twice.

Mike Huckabee was the overwhelming winner, with 239 votes. John McCain was second with 89. Ron Paul got 53, Mitt Romney 19, Rudy Guiliani 3, and Fred Thompson 2.



### DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS REPORT

By Ann Zimmerman

Saline County's Democratic Caucus, held at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 5, was intended to proceed in as orderly fashion as the Republican one did (as reported by Margaret, in the column to the left) – but things got a little scrambled. Last time Salina held a Democratic caucus, 31 people showed up. This time it was 626. As a result, the tiny gym at the former Hageman Elementary School was far too small.

Doors opened at 6:00 p.m. Soon long lines waited just to enter the building in a heavy snowstorm. The lines, slow but good-natured, continued inside toward the gym.

Each person had their name checked off a list, but many names, including those of long-registered party members, were missing, so voters with unlisted names completed a new voter registration form. Each voter was to receive a yellow sticker to wear, but the stickers ran out. Some people never made it to the gym as it filled past capacity.

During the wait, some in the gym began chants and cheers for their candidates.

As Barack Obama's lead became clear, all Obama supporters were directed to go to the gym, while supporters of Hillary Clinton, John Edwards and Dennis Kucinich moved to different rooms to be counted. Obama supporters, sardined into the gym, were tallied as they filed single-file out the door.

The final totals: Barack Obama 472, Hillary Clinton 144, Dennis Kucinich 9, John Edwards 4.

## ELECTION-RELATED DATES 2008

*Courtesy of League member and Saline County Clerk, Don Merriman*

### PRIMARY ELECTION

[NOTE: There is no Presidential Primary in Kansas, but other political races may require primaries.]

**JUN. 10**—Noon—Filing Deadline for primary candidates

**JUN. 20**—Federal ballots mailed

**JUL. 16**—Advance Voting begins

**JUL. 17,18,21**—8am-9pm—Late Registration

**JUL. 21**—Books close at 9pm

**AUG. 1**—Last day to mail ballots

**AUG. 4**—Noon—Advance voting ends

**AUG. 5**—Election Day

**AUG. 6**—Registration Books reopen

### CONVENTIONS

**AUG. 25-28**—Democratic National Convention, Denver, CO

**SEP. 1-4**—Republican Nation Convention, Minneapolis-St.Paul, MN

### GENERAL ELECTION

**SEP. 19**—Federal ballots mailed

**OCT. 15**—Advance Voting begins

**OCT. 16,17,20**—8am-9pm—Late Registration

**OCT. 20**—9pm—Books close

**OCT. 31**—Last day to mail ballots

**NOV. 3**—Noon—Advance voting ends

**NOV. 4**—Election Day

**NOV. 5**—Registration Books reopen

## CHECK OUT THE SALINA LEAGUE'S WEBSITE

More and more members are discovering the usefulness of the League's website:

[www.lwvofsalinaks.com](http://www.lwvofsalinaks.com).

The first things you notice are the bright colors—red, white and blue—and the waving American flag, but those are just the beginning. On that front page, you can also check the time, the weather and headlines from the Associated Press.

But when it's the League you want to know about, this is the place to go. Has someone asked you for information about the League of Women Voters? Our website contains a page entitled "Introduction" describing League history, goals and activities. Another page is "Membership," giving our mission statement and our dues levels.

The "Calendar" page keeps track of our board meetings, Lunch & Learns, membership meetings and other local and national League events.

Find all the Salina League's Program Positions under "Issues." If you need to review the bylaws, they are listed there, too.

When the League is mentioned in the local newspaper or on radio, links to those features can be found on the page called "In the News."

Find out who our board members are on the page marked "Board."

Online copies of this newsletter are found there, as well as Links to state and national League websites and a number of other interesting spots on the worldwide web.

Don't miss the website!

## MORE FROM NATIONAL LEAGUE STUDY: IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION SINCE THE 1980s

In the late 1970s, after the U.S. terminated the U.S.-Mexico *bracero* program, the immigrant worker program begun during WWII, and implemented per-country limits on legal immigration, border control received growing attention. Following a decade of debate, the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) was passed in 1986 which greatly increased Border Patrol funding. In 1988, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) enforcement budget benefited from the War on Drugs and the Anti-Drug-Abuse Act—once IRCA-related budget increases declined, this was the only discretionary funding the INS received.

Beginning with the Immigration Act of 1990, legislation focused on illegal immigration and border enforcement issues. In the 1990s, INS initiated a series of strategies to stop immigrants from illegally crossing Mexican border – "Operation Hold the Line" in the El Paso, TX, area and "Operation Gatekeeper" in California.

Also, in the '90s several events involving immigrants and national security increased concern about illegal immigration – the bombing of the World Trade Center by a Kuwaiti with a false Iraqi passport, the shooting at CIA headquarters by a Pakistani who had entered the U.S. illegally, and the issuance of a visa to someone on a watch list of suspected terrorists.

With broad bipartisan support for aggressive border enforcement, Congress passed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) in 1996. IIRIRA included provisions to "increase by not less than 1,000" the number of full-time Border Patrol agents for each of the next five years in areas with the most illegal crossings. IIRIRA also authorized new barriers and an expanded automated fingerprint system, IDENT.

IIRIRA defined enforcement more broadly to reflect the need to cover air and land ports of entry and mandated a system for tracking entries and exits of students and foreign-born visitors, to be fully operational by 2003. IIRIRA also let local law enforcement train and deputize their offi-

cers for immigration enforcement. Eight such federal-local agreements now exist; 30 more are in the works.

After the 9/11 attacks in 2001, public and political attention on border enforcement intensified. Immigration functions were perceived as a key element of national security. Congress quickly passed legislation to address security gaps, notably the "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism" Act (U.S.A. PATRIOT Act). Other laws focused on enacting 9/11 Commission recommendations. All the laws required greater information sharing at all levels of government and took steps to bring visa issuance and documentation requirements under tighter control. They also mandated inclusion of biometric technology and tamper-resistant machine-readable entry-exit documents.

In 2003, the INS was abolished. Its functions were transferred to the newly created Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS), merging employees from 22 different agencies.

In 2006, Congress passed the Secure Fence Act, with the primary purpose of building 700 miles of new fencing and enhancing the technology to make the U.S.-Mexico border more secure. The cost of building the fence is estimated at \$9 billion (about \$2.5 billion more than the total budget of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in FY 2005). Questions regarding land acquisition costs and environmental impacts are still being debated.

Despite a 500% growth in the Border Patrol's budget since IRCA was passed over 20 years ago, border control improvements have been sporadic at best.

Current border control programs that attempt to deal simultaneously with protection against terrorists, apprehension of criminals, and the illegal entry of people and goods using a single approach may not be effective or efficient.

*[This is excerpted from a much longer, footnoted article at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).]*

## LOOKING FOR NEW "OBSERVERS"

By Kaye Crawford the membership on the activities and business of several groups.

**The League's Observers keep an eye on local commissions and committees.** The Observer Corps covers these groups: Juvenile Justice, Salina-Saline County Mental Health, Salina Airport Authority, Saline County Commission, Salina Public Library, Solid Waste Committee and other important boards and commissions.



**Will you be an Observer?** We need Observers for •Salina Recreation Commission, •Salina City Commission, •Saline County Planning Commission, •Arts and Humanities Commission and •USD #305 Board of Education.

We can only be a viable, effective organization if we stay informed and have active participation. This requires a cadre of Observers representing the Salina League of Women Voters.

However, we are still in need of members to observe and report back to

## DOES YOUR VOTER HAVE A GREEN STICKER?

A bright green sticker adorns the front of some of this month's VOTER newsletters. If you have one, it's a warning!

In continuing efforts to cut printing and mailing costs, we are discontinuing many of the complimentary issues we have been sending.

But if you are still interested in receiving this quarterly news, just tell a League member, or send a small check to cover costs, or—the best idea—join us!

## LEAGUE LINGO

Welcome to the League of Women Voters' world of special language! Sometimes new (and not so new) members are confused by the abbreviations and terminology used by the League. We are giving you a list of definitions (in alphabetical order) designed to put you "in the know" with League terms (list continued from last newsletter).

positions on selected issues.

**ORIENTATION** Basic background material provided in writing; or at meetings to help members understand League purposes, policies, and procedures.

**PMP** Acronym for per member payment, the amount of money paid to state and national Leagues on behalf of each member.

**PORTFOLIO** The particular job assigned to a board member or off-board chair, e.g. membership, finance, Voter editor, natural resources. Many Leagues now use a committee system.

**POSITION** League's point of view, arrived at through member study and consensus or concurrence, and used as a basis for League action.

**POST-BOARD MAILING** Reports of regular state and national board meetings

including: action taken, updated information on current programs issues, board activities, legislative report, announcements.

**PRESIDENT'S PACKET** Yearly supplements to In League, includes updated information and leadership aids.

**PRINCIPLES** Governmental standards and policies supported by the League by which all proposed or adopted local, state and national issues are measured.

**PROGRAM** Plan for speakers, discussions, or other activities for League meetings.

**PROGRAMS** Selected issues chosen by local, state and national membership for study and action.

**RECOGNITION REQUIREMENTS** Standards and activities which must be fulfilled for local Leagues to earn and maintain recognition; adopted by National Convention '86', supplemented by state Leagues.

**RESOURCE MATERIALS** Program information and publications gathered and/or prepared by League committees as background for discussion.

**STUDY AND ACTION** LWVK publica-

tion containing all current positions and background information.

**UNIT** Division of the membership into groups of a size that will provide maximum participation by members in discussion of League program and activities. Units can be time-oriented (day, lunch hour, or evening) or geographically located, or both.

**VOTER** Newsletter for members and subscribers, published by local, state and national Leagues.

**VOTERS GUIDE** Nonpartisan publication giving candidates' qualifications and positions on selected issues.

**VOTERS SERVICE** Year round activity to help citizens be politically effective and to encourage their participation in the political process. Registering voters and presenting election Voters Guides are the two most basic voters service activities.

**VOTING MEMBERS** All League members who are U.S. citizens and at least 18 years old.

[Adapted from information provided by LWVUS and LWV of Ohio 1995 and later.]

## Lynn Jenkins, CPA, Treasurer for State of Kansas writes ON KANSAS ELECTIONS

[Note: This article is taken from the Kansas State Treasurer Website: [www.kansasstatetreasurer.com](http://www.kansasstatetreasurer.com)]

Each year 125 Representatives and 40 Senators from the Kansas House and Senate descend on our Capitol city to address the needs of Kansans and establish a budget for the next year. The 165 individuals plus five state-wide elected officials are sent to Topeka because they won the vote in November. But as a citizen of Kansas your work isn't done there. You need to make sure your elected officials follow through on promises made and keep the priorities established during their run for political office.

As one of the individuals on the ballot back in November, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. It is my honor to serve another four years as your Kansas State Treasurer. It's important that we elected officials know how you feel about various issues affecting our state. As issues are discussed, you will want to stay informed and let your representatives know where you stand on the issues. To assist you, I have compiled seven helpful suggestions to help you stay connected.

### 1) GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE .

If you befriend them before you need their help, your relationship could come in handy when you are faced with a difficult legislative matter. While legislators will do their best to help everyone, like anyone, turning down a friend is a harder thing to do.

**2) STAY CONNECTED.** Write. Call. E-mail. Fax. The only way to be heard is to communicate! You can write your legislator at: Senator/ Representative Name, State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612-1504. You can also call the Capitol operator at (785) 296-0111 during session to get specific information about your representative or you can go online at [www.KsLegislature.org](http://www.KsLegislature.org) to find out just

**The voter's work isn't finished after the elections. Put your elected officials on "speed dial."**

about anything you ever needed to know about the Kansas House or Senate.

### 3) UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES.

The more you know and understand about your issue the better chance you will have to make a strong impact on your legislator. Legislators deal with numerous issues during a typical session so any information you can give them on the specifics of a bill is appreciated.

### 4) ARRANGE FOR MEETINGS WHEN YOUR LEGISLATORS ARE BACK IN THE DISTRICT.

When legislators are in Topeka, their schedules are extremely busy between committee meetings and session. By setting up a time to discuss your issue back in the district, you will have a better chance of having their full attention, plus you will be in familiar and comfortable surroundings. Most lawmakers "return home" each weekend and many hold

public forum meetings. This is a good time to visit with them.

### 5) BE HONEST AND ACCURATE.

When supplying information to your representative ensure that it is correct and relevant and that you stay focused on the issue at hand. If you don't, you run the risk of not being believable and then you will have defeated your entire purpose.

**6) SEAL THE DEAL.** Once you have provided your input on an issue try to get your legislator to commit to voting for your position. If they will not commit, stay in contact with them until they get the information necessary to make a decision.

**7) RESPECT YOUR LEGISLATOR.** Even if you are unable to persuade them on your issue, understand that they represent a vast number of people who all have varying opinions on the issues. The job of a legislator is to strike a balance between everyone and do what he/she feels is the best for their district. Remember, our system of government is built on compromise so nobody can win 100% of the time. Be patient with the system.

I hope you take time to get to know your legislators and express views on the issues that are important to you. They represent you so do not hesitate to call, write or contact them. If I can ever assist you, please feel free to call my office at (785) 296-3171 or visit me online at my website.

—Sally Jenkins, Treasurer  
State of Kansas

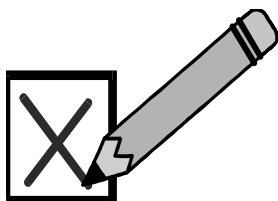
## League of Women Voters of Salina

PO Box 502

Salina, KS 67402-0502

www.lwvofsalinaks.com

## JOIN US



**JOIN IN THE ACTION:** Become a member of the League of Women Voters of Salina or renew your League Membership. There is no better time than NOW for you to join the League. Please take a moment now to become a member.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ Single Membership (circle one)
- Contributing Level*      \$55.00
  - Sustaining Level*      \$45.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership (circle one)
- Contributing Level*      \$80.00
  - Sustaining Level*      \$65.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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: **Margaret Wyatt, Membership Chairperson**  
4401 W. State Street Road, Salina, Kansas 67401  
Telephone: 823-2806 Email: gretchenskiski@aol.com

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