

VOTER

©

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF TOPEKA & SHAWNEE COUNTY

LWVTSC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 29

LWV of Kansas Convention in Topeka, KS. Please remember to make your reservation for convention. Details and online registration is available on the LWVK.org web site.

May 2

Tuesday Topics, TSCPL, 1515 SW 10th Av., Topeka, Lunch provided by Millennium Café beginning at 11:30 AM. Speaker at Noon. Luncheon Menu: Chicken salad croissant with fruit cup, assorted cookies. Iced tea @ \$10.00

May 9

LWVTSC Board of Directors meeting at TSCPL, 1515 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, @ Noon. League members are welcome!

June 6

Tuesday Topics

Speaker will be Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan, Pastor of the United Universal Fellowship of Topeka and member of Topekans for Racial Justice. Title TBA.

July 4

Tuesday Topics: No meeting because of Independence Day holiday.

If you need a ride to any League event, contact [Betsy Rohleder](mailto:ronbetsy@cox.net) via email ronbetsy@cox.net or phone 357-1995, or [Bernadette Forge](mailto:b.forge@cox.net), email b.forge@cox.net or phone 232-9078.

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**Check out our
Web Site!**

[http://
lwvtsc.atwebpages.com](http://lwvtsc.atwebpages.com)



Judy Moler, President



Wow, when I agreed to serve as President of the League of Women Voters over two years ago, it seemed so far in the future. Now here it is....the leadership of one of the most important organizations in our county.

I am standing on the shoulders of the outstanding women who preceded me. What a legacy we have. I hope that I can carry on their hard work and vision.

I would like to take presidential privilege and review the accomplishments of the past year....and a phenomenal year it was.

The three billboards that we placed around the city of Topeka promoting the importance of voting were a first. The billboards were funded through our education fund held at the national level. The billboards were placed in partnership with LULAC and the NAACP. Our President, Camille Nohe, took the lead on this effort with the help of others.

The Washburn Student League was established through the work of Carrie Lancaster. Several members aided by paying the LWV dues for students who could not afford to do so.

Media Liaison Carole Jordan arranged for a spot on the "red couch" with Ralph Hipp prior to each Tuesday Topics.

Community Liaison Orion Jordan affected so much visibility and partnership with community groups including a voter registration project in central Topeka in concert with the YWCA. The fund raising event, ART AS ACTIVISM, was a great success both in money received, and visibility achieved.

There were 15 League members of the League who served as poll workers during the election.

Nancy Wagner shepherded an impressive group of local government observers throughout the year. Our presence at these local government meetings makes our League so visible.

League member Carol Yoho managed the Website in addition to being our League photographer. She did a photo shoot with League members in order to create the note cards that are for sale for a mere \$10.00.

The candidate events with the Topeka Chamber, Topeka Capital-Journal and with other nonprofit organizations were successful and forged a team for future events including a candidate school for those running for the legislature and local offices.

Glennie Buckley arranged for 12 months of stellar and timely speakers throughout the year.

Theresa Kiernan simplified the budget process making it easier to understand and to discuss.

Vicki Buening revived the New Member After Topics and plans to offer a new member gathering in the near future.

Vicki Arnett provided written testimony in support of federal childcare regulations using the Kansas LWV policy on childcare and early childhood education.

Of course, Lea Billinger held us together with her minutes and her willingness to take on any job she was asked to do.

Liz Post kept our Facebook up to date, and Peggy Hinck sent out our Voter on a monthly basis.

Voter services....what can I say. Bernadette Forge succeeded by Jan Martens and Ethel Edwards did an outstanding job. Registration opportunities were provided in local schools, businesses and churches. The effort to expand to schools has been underwritten by a grant written by Jan and Ethel and funded by the National League of Women Voters. An additional grant was obtained by Ethel Edwards in the amount of \$300 to help fund this effort.

Three naturalization ceremonies were held, and voter registration was available there.

We are working hard to develop a 21st century model for our Facebook, Website and email use. It is scary for a coal fired person such as me, but it will be such an improvement in communications with our membership.

I am sure I have omitted names and jobs, but a big pat on the back to our membership and those of you who have moved us seamlessly into 2017. In the decades I have been a League member, we have grown and widened our visibility and stature in the community by giant strides.

Keeping the mission of our organization and the greater good of community in mind, let's march forward together into the year ahead. I look forward to working with each of you.

League of Women Voters Topeka Shawnee County
TREASURER'S REPORT

April 2017 Treasurer's Report of Income and Expenditures for the time period commencing on March 1, 2017 and ending on March 31, 2017.¹

INCOME	Mar 1- Mar 31	Cumulative Year to Date	Percentage of Amount Budgeted for Fiscal Year	Budgeted 2016-2017
Donations	.00	385.00	188%	205.00
Dues and Sustainer Contributions	1,295.00	7,785.00	108%	7,180.00
Interest	.00	1.96		.00
Hospitality and Meals	121.25	2,512.75	113%	2,230.00
Fundraising	30.00 ²	2,253.00	109%	2,065.00
Transfers/Payments from LWVUS Education Fund	.00	1350.00	140%	965.00
Voter Services Grant	.00	675.00		
Total Income	\$1,446.25	\$14,962.71	118%	\$12,645.00
EXPENSES AND TRANSFERS				
State and National Assessments	1,918.00	6,350.00	104%	6,100.00
General Administration and Operations	38.21	4,359.52	109%	4,005.00
Fundraising Expenses	.00	691.19	223%	310.00
Hospitality and Meals	231.25	2,555.75	115%	2,230.00
Transfers/Payments to LWVUS Education Fund	.00	50.00		.00
Voter Services Grant	.00	844.00		
Total Expenses and Transfers	\$2,094.96	\$14,850.46³	117%	\$12,645.00

Assets	End of Prior Fiscal Year	End of Prior Month	End of Current Month
Core First Checking Account Balance	12,233.63	12,678.05	13,112.30
Silver Lake Bank Certificate of Deposit	838.26	.00	.00
LWVUS Education Fund Balance	3,218.01	1,918.00	1,918.00
Total Assets	\$16,289.90	\$14,596.05	\$15,030.30
Liabilities	.00	.00	.00
Net Worth	\$16,289.90	\$14,596.05	\$15,030.30

¹ This report also constitutes an end of fiscal year report.

² Of this amount, \$10 is from the sale of notecards; and \$20 is from Arts event.

³ Net Difference between Actual Income and Actual Expenditures and Transfers, as of March 31, 2017: \$112.25.



By Glennie Buckley

Dennis Tenpenny, Program Manager at Valeo Behavioral Health Care, presented important and timely information regarding the role Valeo plays in meeting the needs of those suffering from mental illness including drug addiction. They connect with clients and help them access resources, get back to socializing, and recognize triggers.

According to Mr. Tenpenny, one in five people suffers from mental illness and one in 25 people have a serious mental illness. Valeo describes serious mental illness as persistently mentally ill. Social workers and Family Service and Guidance provide the needed early intervention that is critical in mental health care.

Depression is the #1 mental illness. Other mental illness percentages Mr. Tenpenny shared include the following: schizophrenic 1%, bipolar 2.6%, and anxiety 18.1%.

Mentally ill persons are more likely to be victims of crime than perpetrators. Persons with severe and persistent mental illness who go without treatment die 25 years sooner than other Americans. Mental illness, which costs Kansas billions of dollars, results in unemployment, homelessness, incarceration, hospitalization, suicide, and unnecessary disability.

In 2015 Valeo provided \$2,210,187 in uncompensated services. Valeo collaborates with more than 80 partners to provide *Crisis Services* that include 26 beds for crisis residents needing 24/7 care; *Outpatient Services* that include adult psychotherapy, medical services, and a primary care clinic provided at

St. Francis Hospital. Valeo is looking for a new partner since St. Francis is for sale. Other services include *Community Support Services*, *Recovery Center Services* that include 11 beds dedicated for social detox purposes and 34 beds for residential/intermediate care, *Healthy Smiles* at the Valeo dental clinic, *Community Education and Outreach*, and *Crisis Diversion Services* that are designed to keep those with mental illness out of the hospital. Other services include community medication outreach support services that ensure proper medications are taken regularly and counseling. Valeo also works with the alternative sentencing court, the Shawnee County Jail, and the Topeka Rescue Mission. A *Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)* includes police trained in dealing with persons with mental illness. The Valeo resident program was formerly part of the Menninger Foundation. The *Crisis Transitional Care* was closed due to a lack of funds.

Among the needs at Valeo are bus passes, socks (clothing banks don't provide these), blankets, and personal hygiene supplies. Monetary donations are used for lab work not covered by insurance, medications, dental care beyond what is provided at the Valeo dental clinic, dentures, clothing for interviews and employment, undergarments (clothing banks don't provide these), shoes, birth certificates, and identification.

The services provided by Valeo Behavioral Care makes this non-profit organization essential for providing multiple supports for those suffering from mental illness. Anyone who would like more information about Valeo can call the main phone number 785-233-1730. The 24-Hour Crisis Hotline is 785-234-3300.

There were 47 members and 5 visitors present at the April 4, 2017 LWV TSC meeting.



On Saturday, April 22 our League hopes to participate in two voter registration drives. These are outside community events where several registrars are needed. We will have a table set up at each location but some would need to mingle with the crowd to either register them on a clipboard

or steer them to the table to register.

We are using the federal form that requires no birth certificate. I will provide sample forms with the difficult answers supplied.

Times, events, and locations are listed below. If you can help, please let me know immediately. Thanks so much. Jan

Lake Shawnee-----Multiple Sclerosis Walk----Shelter Houses 1 and 2

Arrive by 8:45 AM ----- I will set it up and return by 10:30 AM so you can leave. We need two workers.

Celebration of 100 years at Highland Park High School

This will take place in front of the school.

Arrive by either **noon OR 1:30 PM**. I will set up at 11:30 AM and leave at 1:30.

Bernadette Forge will work the **1:30 - 3PM**. Parking will be in the north and east lots.

We need one or two additional workers for each time slot.

Again, thank you for helping us out.

Jan Martens
Voter Services
LWV Topeka-Shawnee County



Urgent Membership Memo

By Carrie Lancaster, Membership Chair

During the April Annual Meeting, the following dues increases approved effectively immediately.

An individual membership is now \$60 per year. Individual Sustaining Membership is still \$85 per year. Household membership is \$90 per year and the Household Sustaining membership is \$105 per year. These increases will fund our budget for local unit projects.

Please Welcome New Members

By Carrie Lancaster, Membership Chair

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our unit. Please try to make their acquaintance at our May meeting and involve them in our activities.

Dorothy and Edward Tenney
Saundra Snyder
Elvera Johnson



LWV Board Briefs from Board of Directors Meeting April 11, 2017

- Tuesday Topics April Attendance was 46 members and 6 guests.
- The Board will host a new member gathering in June at the home of Judy Moler.
- The Books, Bags and Beyond Fund Raiser will be held in September this year.
- The State Annual meeting will be held here in Topeka on April 29 at the Ramada Inn and Convention Center.

Our League co-hosted a Legislative Coffee with the Topeka-Shawnee County Library and local Chamber. Ten local legislators attended and spoke to a standing room only crowd.

Since a nominating committee was not appointed at the Annual meeting, the Board appointed the following people for 2017-2018: Dennis Bosley, Chair; Vicki Arnett; Gwen Elliott; Orion Jordan; and Teresa Stambaugh.

****Next meeting is May 9, 2017***



Pine Ridge Community Update

The LWVTSC will donate items to Pine Ridge Preschool children and their parents in May. This will be the final donation drive before the end of the academic year. Please bring books, diapers and feminine hygiene products to May Tuesday Topics.



Shawnee County Commission Meeting: 3-20-2017

Observer: Elvera Johnson
all commissioners present.

*Considerable time

was spent discussing maintenance issues at Parks & Rec including repairs needed to resurface a path at Cypress Ridge Golf Course. Cook expressed concern that he hoped funds were not being taken away from community center maintenance to pay for golf course projects, when golf course projects are intended to be self supporting. The resurfacing was approved 3-0.

Shawnee County Commission Meeting: 3-23-2017

Observer: Nancy Perih
3 Commissioners present

*Approved contract w/ GraceMed for emergency storage of vaccines in case of power outage or failure of vaccine refrigerators @ Capitol Family & Highland Park Family Clinics @ no cost to SNCO.
*A brief discussion followed approval of preliminary project budgets for updating & maintenance of Skyline Park (\$199,600) & Lake Shawnee Jr Pond (\$368,600), both highly utilized areas. When assessing underutilized areas for closure, it is important to consider the needs of the neighborhood & if the area is underutilized due to inadequate maintenance or updating.

Shawnee County Commission Meeting: 3-27-2017

Observer: Elvera Johnson
All members present

*Kristi Pankratz, Safe Streets, reported that the National Night Out event is scheduled for August, and planning meetings reflect great enthusiasm.

*A report from the Expo Centre noted that the kids wrestling event had great participation, and that for the first time a female was a state champion wrestler in this event.

Shawnee County Commission Meeting: 3-30-2017

Observer: Nancy Perih
3 Commissioners present

*Approved request for Expo Centre capital expenditures, \$19,382.02. It was noted that the Expo Centre will refurbish two-way radios previously used by dept. of emergency management w/ batteries, antennas, & battery chargers rather than buying more expensive new equipment. This saves tax dollars.

Shawnee County Commission Meeting: 4-3-2017

Observer: Elvera Johnson
All Commissioners present

Items of interest, but not necessarily requiring action:

*Parks & Rec is considering redoing the Lake Shawnee swim beach area into an "outdoor adventure area." Attendance has been declining & equipment is deteriorating. It would require a lot of financial investment to repair. Hillcrest Center has a swimming area for the same fee of \$2, this would not deprive local residents of a swim area that is accessible financially.

*Plans are underway to redesign the Lake Shawnee trail section along 45th street. The present trail has a steep area that was the site of a fatal bike accident several years ago.

*Approved the disbursement of \$288,000 to GraceMed to establish a community health center in the old Dillon's at 1400 SW Huntoon. Archer commented that SN Counties low health ranking in Kansas as a serious problem.

Shawnee County Commission Meeting: 4-6-2017

Observer: Nancy Perih
3 Commissioners present

*Approved contract between Dept. of Corrections, Sheriff's Office, Topeka Police Dept. & Valeo for funding a full-time employee in the Crisis Response Program; \$60,000.00/yr. w/ funding of \$10,000 each from Dept. of Corrections & Sheriff's Office. This program provides avenues to divert mentally ill people to appropriate mental health services as well as saves money & lives.

*Approved request to apply for competitive Title II Formula Grant from KS Dept. of Corrections & KS Advisory Group. It is offered to districts that focus on system reforms to reduce racial & ethnic disparities by leading traditional & non-traditional stakeholders through a

data-driven, consensus-based process. Since participating in this initiative for 6 yrs., the juvenile detention center population has decreased from 80 to 27.

Shawnee County Commission Meeting: 4-10-2017

Observer: Mary Jo Hobbs
3 Commissioners present

*Approved request to apply for the Healthy Community Initiative: Improving Health Equity in Kansas Grant in an amount of \$75,000, to hire a Community Health Planner to identify disparities affecting the health of babies & access to healthy foods.

*Sheriff reported that there are now 26 dispatchers and the goal is to work toward accreditation of the Shawnee County Emergency Communications Center. Two employees will be honored at national meeting in KC this week.

*Commissioner Buhler reported that there is only one more section of the Willard Bridge to be completed.

Shawnee County Commission Meeting: 4-13-2017

Observer: Nancy Perih
2 Commissioners present, Commissioner Archer absent

*Legislative update presented by SNCO counselor. Bill of concern is re: elections: count advance ballots on day of election election commissioner be elected @ county level.

Another bill is re: executive meetings: when called a reason for calling the meeting & a justification why it is a closed meeting must be included.

*SNCO 2037 Comprehensive Plan adoption process will begin in June. Final meeting dates are: final public open house 6-15; Planning Commission public hearing 7-10; County Commission first reading, 7-24-2017.

Topeka City Council Meeting: 4-11-2017

Observer: Marge Soroko

Approved:

*Consent agenda consisting of several exceptions to the city noise ordinance for special events.

*Start of the process for condemnation proceedings to obtain property owned by Topeka Housing authority for a new



pump station at Williams & Eugene streets in North Topeka.

The Capital Improvement plan & budget were tabled to give the city manager

time to resolve questions from several council members.

*The quarterly payment to TPAC (Mr. Coen voting no).

Discussion:

*Neighborhood code enforcement. Ms. Han from that dept. provided statistics for 2016 & outlined changes from previous years. They have demolished 37 structures and closed over 9000 cases with 695 or so still pending. Several cases have gone through a code enforcement court with some encouraging results. The council was impressed with this report. They also discussed the number of cases with repeat city code violators. Asking why it takes so long to see results. The dept. did acknowledge they have most difficulty with absentee or deceased owners. During the public comment 2 people spoke about their difficulty with code violators, & the problems that they knew about. Mr. Ledbetter stated there are good ideas from people in neighborhoods

& code enforcement employees .

*The Troy Scroggins award was presented to the Circles Program, a mentoring program to help low income persons & families rise out of poverty.

USD 437 Board Meeting: 4-3-2017

Observer: Jacquie Lightcap
7 members present

*Approved:

-Roof bids for portions of Auburn Elem., WRHS, Wanamaker Elem., & Pauline for completion in summer (7-0)

-Individual Plan of Study Platform (6-0, 1 abstention)

-Purchase of 830 Chromebooks (7-0)

*Received/Discussed: Upcoming events: Recognition & Retirement reception 4-24-17; Foundation Spring Breakfast 4-27-17; graduation 5-21-17.

*Board member Jim Gartner announced he will not run for re-election

*Went into Executive Session at 7:01 PM until 7:11 PM to discuss matters relating to employer-employee negotia-

tions whether or not in consultation with the representative or representatives of the body of agency; & personnel matters for non-elected personnel. Subsequent to Executive Session, no action was taken. Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM

USD 501 Board Meeting:4-6-2017

Observer: Janet Cathcart

All board members present

School Highlights:

*Advisor's Excel was recognized providing items requested on wish list10-2016 to Highland Park HS, Ross Elem., & Sheldon Head Start. They also, helped in providing transportation to Highland Park & Ross parents attending parent teacher conferences, & helped pay ACT test fees for Highland Park students. At Sheldon Head Start turned a previous storage space into a fully stocked pantry with a washer, dryer & a new refrigerator. Larry Robbins said, "They are a role model for other businesses in the community".

*Theatres in school celebration showcased the Topeka West theatre dept. Topeka West President & Vice President of the Thespian Group presented a quick review of all the activities going on in the West theatre dept. & spoke regarding how theatre has made a big impact in their lives.

*Peggy & Wally Fisher were recognized for receiving Magna Awards for their "Tot SPOT" mobile therapy unit. The Magna program allows district therapists to travel to the student to provide therapy. This award recognizes nationally best practices among school district leadership & innovation programs. This is the district's third time winning a first place Magna award.

*Superintendent's Report included the auditor update and report. Per Keri Lynn, auditor from Berberich & Trahan, the district received the highest outcome standard on their audit. There was one financial weakness reported regarding recording technology purchases but this has been addressed & can be found on the district's website (<http://www.topekapublicschools.net/>) under budget documents. A report on Alternative School was presented by French Middle School principal Kelli Hoffman, Topeka West principal Dustin Dick, Dr. Grimes & Dr. Willey who will be the

new principal of the Alternative School. This school would be an alternative to long term suspension or expulsion students. It is for students who cannot attend Hope Street because they may be middle school age or have a history of violent offense or are not eligible to attend Capitol City HS due to no IEP.

*Resolution 17-02: school closures of Avondale West, Bishop and Shaner Elem. were discussed before the regular board meeting including public comment. It will be an action item at the next board meeting. The resolution reads, "Students residing in the Avondale West Elementary School, Bishop Elementary School and Shaner Elementary School areas will be reassigned to the Jardine Academy Elementary School and that students who have transferred to Avondale West Elementary School, Bishop Elementary School or Shaner Elementary School be assigned back to the school in the attendance area in which they reside." It was adopted at this meeting and will be voted on at the next meeting.

JEDO Meeting: 3-29- 2017

Observer: Evelyn Davis

All voting members (7) were present

*In a meeting lasting only 30 minutes JEDO board 1) approved replacing a JEDO Finance committee member as signer on funds in an investment pool, 2) approved funding a request for incentive funds (\$124,715 maximum) for an existing Topeka company to expand, add a new product line, 60 new full time and 50 part time employees. This Company will be announcing plans in near future.

*Heard updates on: 1) development of the East Topeka Learning Center, 2) progress in developing the Holistic Economic Development strategy planned to roll out in fall of 2017 and be implemented in Jan. 2018, 3) 49th Street Project which is to make SW 49th Street between Topeka Blvd. & Burlingame Rd. along the north border of Central Crossing into a 3-lane hard surfaced road.

* Mayor Wolgast mentioned losing Alo-rica as an employer. JEDO & Go Topeka would be assisting those 300 workers with other employment and/or training.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TOPEKA SHAWNEE COUNTY
Peggy Hinck, VOTER Editor
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I want to add my voice to yours by joining the League of Women Voters. I enclose;

_____ \$60 for a 1 year Individual Membership

_____ \$90 for a 1 year Household Membership

_____ \$85 for a 1 year Sustaining Membership (includes a \$30 donation to the League)

_____ \$105 for a 1 year Household Sustaining Membership

I am unable to join the League at this time, but enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Please make check payable to: **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TOPEKA SHAWNEE COUNTY**

Mail to: Carrie Lancaster, Membership, 2253 SW Alameda Dr., Topeka KS 66614-4220