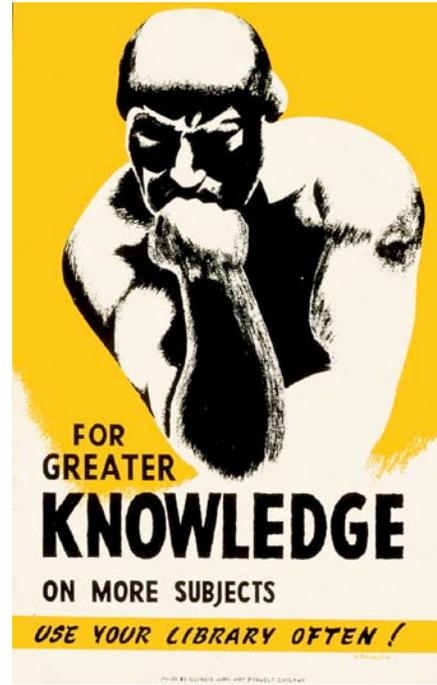


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February is Love Your LibraryMonth



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The VOTER

Bulletin of the LWV of Lawrence-Douglas County, KS

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.



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State League:	http://www.lwvk.org	lwvks@sbcglobal.net	



League Calendar

Saturday, February 25th	7:00 PM	Land Use Committee Meeting. <i>Community Mercantile Meeting Room, 901 Iowa St.</i>
Tuesday, February 28th		Reservations due for the Helen Fluker Award Luncheon.
Saturday, March 3rd	11:30 AM	Helen Fluker Award Luncheon. <i>Smith Center, Brandon Woods, 4730 Brandon Woods Terrace. Please see article on page 2.</i>
Thursday March 8th	7:00 PM	LWV-L/DC Board Meeting. <i>First Methodist Church 946 Vermont St. All League members are welcome to attend.</i>
Saturday, March 24th	7:00 PM	Land Use Committee Meeting. <i>Community Mercantile Meeting Room, 901 Iowa St.</i>
Saturday, April 21st	11:30 AM	LWV-L/DC Annual Meeting. <i>Smith Center, Brandon Woods, 4730 Brandon Woods Terrace.</i>
April 27th & 28th		LWVK State Council, <i>Salina Ramada Inn and Convention Center, Salina, KS.</i> More details at www.lwvk.org/calendar.html

A Note from President Kay Hale

After spending a month in California, I am grateful to be back in Kansas. In my absence the Board continued to function, just as I thought it would. I must thank Milton Scott for chairing the January Board meeting and all of the Board members for carrying out their responsibilities.

At this time of year the League anticipates the future. The January Program Planning meeting was a success with excellent attendance and strong ideas from the participants. Three options for "Proposed Program" were developed and have been recommended to the Board of Directors. The options will be presented at the Annual Meeting.



The future of the League depends upon responsible and committed Board members and officers. The Nominating Committee is now in the process of recruiting a slate of candidates. If you are asked to be on the slate, I urge you to consider accepting. Serving as your president and as a Board member is one of the most rewarding activities I have undertaken as a volunteer.

The League provides numerous opportunities for you to get involved and make democracy work. Here's one: A number of League positions are under siege in the Kansas Legislature. Specifically, League positions now being challenged include: fair and adequate taxation, funding for Medicaid/Health Wave, funding for schools, voter suppression, campaign finance, women's rights/choice and more. The LWVK State President is seeking members to follow bills and present testimony to Legislative Committees. If you would like to volunteer for this important advocacy work, please contact Ernestine Krehbiel at ekrehbiel@cox.net.

The League needs to make its voice heard at this crucial time in Kansas state government. I encourage you to speak out.



Make your reservation
to attend the Saturday, March 3rd luncheon
at which the

*Helen Fluker Open and Accessible
Government Award*

will be presented to a Douglas County citizen
who has promoted improvement in government.



Reservations must be made by Tuesday, February 28, with Audrey Kamb-Studdard (843-4166 or audkamb@ku.edu), Marguerite Lohrenz (865-0195 or zlohren@sbcglobal.net), Marjorie Cole (842-6085 or nobledog@aol.com), or Janet Roth (843-4764 or jroth@ku.edu).

The event will be at the Smith Center, 4730 Brandon Woods Terrace, at 11:30 with lunch served at noon. The formal presentation of the award is at 12:30. Cost of the lunch is \$14.

The menu for the luncheon is:

Grilled Shrimp Skewers or Chicken Picatta, Caesar Salad, Confetti Wild Rice,
Caramel Roasted Butternut Squash, Homemade Focaccia, Crème De Menthe Brownies

Time for Dues Payment!

When should I pay my dues?

The League year runs from April 1 to March 31 of the next year. League dues should be paid before or at the Annual Meeting, Saturday, April 21, 2012. Only members who have paid for the 2012-13 year will be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Do I owe dues?

Most League members will owe dues on April 1, 2012, but some of you who paid dues this fall or winter are already credited as having paid for the 2012-13 year. The label on your Voter will have the date when your membership "expires". If you get your Voter by email, you can receive your "expiration" date by emailing Marjorie Cole at nobledog@aol.com.

How do I pay dues?

Send in the form on the last page of *The Voter*, along with a check made out to League of Women Voters-Lawrence/Douglas County (LWV-L/DC) and mail it to LWV, PO Box 1072, Lawrence, KS 66044. Dues are \$50 for an individual, \$75 for a household membership and \$20 for a student. Additional donations to provide dues scholarships (sponsor a membership) are welcomed in any amount.

Minutes of the LWV-L/DC Program Planning Meeting

January 28, 2012, Fire Station, 19th & Iowa Streets,
10 am - noon

The meeting was called to order by President Kay Hale at 10 am. Nineteen members were present, including Kay, Alan Black, Marilyn Chamberlin, Marjorie Cole (Treasurer), Bonnie Dunham (Board Member),

James Dunn (Board Member), Nancy Dunn, Bob Duver (Board Member), Lee Ann Duver, Margo Gordon, Gary Hale, Melinda Henderson (Board Member), Ruth Lichtwardt (Board Member), Carrie Lindsey (President Elect), Marguerite Lohrenz, Caleb Morse (Secretary), Milton Scott (Vice President), Saunny Scott, and new member Genny Weston.



Kay provided introductory remarks and introduced new member Weston. The objective of the meeting was to discuss and vote on recommendations for National and Local program. She explained that program comprises both the League's existing position statements and any studies currently being carried out. So during program planning, we start by examining our existing positions. At both National and Local level (and, in odd-numbered years, at State level), League may adopt a new study that focuses on an issue not addressed by any previously adopted position; adopt a "re-study" to review and update an existing position; or adopt no study or "re-study." Kay noted that League may also adopt by concurrence a position on an issue already studied by another League. The LWV L-DC Board will forward recommendation(s) on national program made at this meeting to LWVUS for consideration at Convention this summer. The Board will evaluate and recommend none, some, or all recommendations for local program made at this meeting to the LWV L-DC general membership, which will adopt local program at Annual Meeting in April. In addition to these larger actions, League may adopt minor changes (corrections, updates; changes that would not require a study to decide on) to positions at Convention and Annual Meeting. The program planning meeting provides a good opportunity to identify positions that require such changes.

NATIONAL PROGRAM. Kay informed the meeting of the status of two current studies currently under way at the national level. LWV L-DC has already adopted a consensus statement on the study of the role of the federal government in education. LWV L-DC has sent representative Bonnie to participate in meetings of the LWV Topeka-Shawnee Co committee study on privatization. Bonnie noted that we need to decide whether or not to hold some meetings of our own on this topic; the consensus questions are available on-line.



Kay reported that she had heard that the LWV Columbia-Boone Co (Missouri) plans to propose a study of a federal Department of Peace and that some other Leagues had considered proposing a study of gas extraction by hydraulic fracturing (so-called fracking). Some other Leagues are recommending no new studies be adopted, due to limited resources and the need to focus on action. There was some discussion about the Columbia proposal; Kay noted that we have national positions on both diplomacy and violence prevention, both of which may be utilized with regard to increasing the peace. Milton added that we have national environmental positions that may be utilized to address issues surrounding fracking.

Caleb (Carrie) moved to recommend adoption of no new national study. Discussion: Bonnie noted that she agreed, by and large, with the motion, but would not object to a new study if there were interest in carrying out the activities, the issue being not necessarily one of financial resources, but of finding League members with time and energy to devote to chairing the study and doing the research. Kay called the question; motion carried.

LOCAL PROGRAM. Kay began the discussion of Local program with a review of some ways in which our existing positions had been used in the past year and reviewed the suggestions for Local program made at the 2010 planning meeting. Carrie explained the status of our current study, the study that had been adopted in 2010, of why voter turnout is so low in east Lawrence. Carrie and the leaders of some other civic groups that serve residents in east Lawrence (East Lawrence Neighborhood Assoc, Lawrence Assoc of Neighborhoods, NAACP) have formed an ad hoc group to discuss this issue, and the consensus seems to be that everyone knows why turnout is low in east Lawrence. The group has decided that it would be better to concentrate on increasing voter turnout (an action). The group has decided to try to recruit two members from each organization to attend local events and explain why they vote and why it's important for everyone to cast a vote. Milton opined that perhaps we should not commit to a new study, since we hadn't finished the last one adopted.

The meeting reviewed existing posi-



tions, one by one. Melinda noted that task forces have been utilized with increasing frequency to make recommendations on city policy, and perhaps a thorough study of how task forces are used, how representative they are, and how they are governed, would be in order. Milton noted that Douglas County school boards and districts are not ad-

ressed in our position on local boards and commissions, and sections dealing the Lawrence City and Douglas County commissions do not address issues specific to the County's four unified school districts. There was some discussion of these topics. Carrie (Milton) moved to recommend a review and re-study of our position on Boards and Commissions (Local Government, #4; one year review, one year re-study) with respect to county school boards and use of task forces. After some further discussion, Kay called the question; motion carried.

Alan asked if any of our positions could be used to address the status of the local Amtrak station. No position addresses the protection of historic structures and our position on the environment does not address identification of a transportation hub for Lawrence. After discussion, Alan (Carrie) moved to recommend a study of the Amtrak station and whether the city should consider purchasing it for use as a transportation hub for Lawrence. Motion carried. Alan volunteered to chair the study.

James noted that our Social Policy position was approved in 1975 and is out of date in some ways (for instance, with respect to housing low income groups). After some discussion, James (Melinda) moved to recommend a review of the statement of position on housing for low income groups. After some discussion, Kay called the question; motion carried. James volunteered to chair the study.

The meeting adjourned shortly after noon.
- Caleb Morse

Highlights of the Board Meeting

January 12, 2012, 7-9 pm, Ninth Street Missionary Outreach Center, 901 Tennessee St.

Present: Milton Scott (Vice President, presiding), Marjorie Cole (Treasurer), Caleb Morse (Secretary);

Directors: Bonnie Dunham, James Dunn, Bob Duver, Melinda Henderson, Ruth Lichtwardt, Carrie Lindsey.

Absent: David Burress, Kay Hale, Carol Jacobson, Chris Lempa.

TREASURER'S REPORT Marjorie reported on finances for both Nov and December. In Nov, total income was \$225; and expenses of \$549.91. In Dec, total income was \$955; and expenses of \$77.80. As of Jan 1, balances in various accounts were as follows: Checking = \$2596.75; Money Market = \$4395.25; Stucky = \$7110.69; Judiciary = \$1088.58; Dues Scholarship Fund = \$105.00.

Marjorie also reported that, at the time of the meeting, the Fund Drive had resulted in \$1590 in contributions: \$930 for the General Fund, \$610 for the Education Fund, and \$50 for the Dues Scholarship Fund.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Kay reported in absentia.

Fund Drive. 185 fund drive letters were mailed on Nov 30. At the time of the meeting, more than \$1,590 had been contributed in response to the fund drive letter. Contributions to the League in 2009 totaled \$900, but we did not hold a fund drive in 2010. Kay thanked Bonnie for drafting the letter and Marjorie for other assistance.

Afternoon with the Legislators. Forty people attended our annual Afternoon with the Legislators on December 17, including 5 out of our 10 legislators. Kay recommended that future "Afternoons" should take place earlier in December to ensure better attendance by legislators, but she had received many good comments about the event.

ACTION ITEMS

Proposed Revisions to LWV/LDC Policies. Marjorie and Caleb went through suggested changes to the LWV L-DC Policies document, line by line. There was consensus to approve the revisions. However, Marjorie and Caleb had only included a place holder for website policies. These will be developed by Marjorie and Caleb, in collaboration with the Communications Committee, before the February meeting, at



which time the updated policies will be approved.

Local Study Carrie reported that she had met with Gwen Klingenberg (Lawrence Assoc of Neighborhoods), Ursula Minor (Lawrence NAACP), and Christy Kosirog (East Lawrence Neighborhood Assoc) to discuss how to increase voter turnout in eastern Lawrence. The four agreed that each would ask two non-board members from their respective organizations to volunteer to attend various events around town to advertise the importance of voting, especially in local elections. If their efforts at recruiting these (8) spokespeople meet with success, they will push forward with this initiative. If not, they will drop it. Carrie will let us know about their success next month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership and Leadership Development. Bonnie reported that our next Brown Bag Lunch will take place on Feb 15, which is Susan B. Anthony's birthday! Bonnie and Carrie also noted that we have another new member (Scott Criqui). Carrie is working on League business cards, to use for member recruitment and advertising our website.

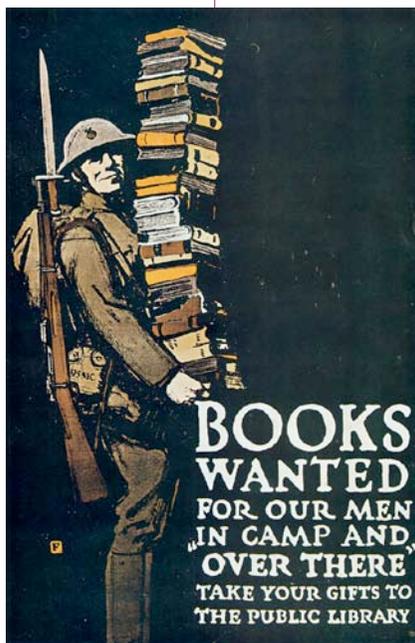
Voter Services Committee. Melinda reported that she had participated in a webinar on Vote 411 and is confident that she could handle the software to implement this for Douglas County. Melinda also spoke with Douglas County Clerk Jamie Shew to discuss voter registration and education during the coming year. It's still possible that Secretary of State Kobach will succeed in persuading the Legislature to push up the dates at which time unregistered Kansans will have to prove their citizen status in order to vote. In addition to this, Shew is worried that some voters may be discouraged from voting by inaccurate information. Melinda will need help from the general membership to meet these goals and will put an article in the upcoming Voter.

LWVK Board Report. James reported that the next meeting of the state board would take place on State League Day (Feb 15). In the meantime, it appears that LWVK plans to implement Vote 411 statewide and

pay for it in its entirety. Our longtime treasurer Lee Rowe wishes to retire and Diane Kuhn (chair, LWVK nominating committee) is looking for talented money-minded people nominees to replace her.

LWV-US Privatization Study. Bonnie reported that she had attended three meetings on this fascinating subject with the LWV Topeka-Shawnee Co study group. They plan to hold their first "voice meeting" on Feb 16. There are lots of readings on different aspects of privatization of public entities on the LWVUS website <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/privatization>, as well as the American Library Association website <http://www.ala.org/tools/outsourcing>.

- Caleb Morse



Land Use Committee Report

The Land Use Committee (LUC) met at the Merc on January 21 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the upcoming Planning Commission (PC) Agenda plus some current important issues. We sent three letters to the Planning Commission, and submitted an email with attached letters to the City Commission on an agenda item of concern.

The first letter that we sent to the Planning Commission (PC) was on Agenda Item No. 5. This was a continuation of a text amendment (TA) on industrial districts to create a new Medium Industrial (IM) District of intermediate intensity between the two now-existing Limited Industrial (IL) and General Industrial (IG) Districts. It had been deferred at the December meeting. We previously had annotated some of the proposed changes in the staff report, and we modified our letter to reflect some of the new suggested changes that we questioned in the revised TA. The objection by stakeholders to the proposed TA was the amount of non-conforming uses that would be created by changing the permitted uses in the existing industrial districts. **OUTCOME:** The PC deferred the issue again with instructions to staff to leave the existing industrial districts unchanged, create the new IM District, but to separate Truck Stops from the Gas and Fuel sales

category and create a new use category for Truck Stops. The issue of creating the new IM District and new category for Truck Stops will appear on the February PC Agenda.

The second letter we sent to the PC was on Item No. 10, the rezoning, preliminary plat and Special Use Permit for a multi-family development that would replace the Gaslight Village Mobile Home Park on 41+ acres fronting on 31st Street located just east of the Home Depot shopping center. The request was for its rezoning to the multiple-family district, RM12, replatting into a huge, one-lot development, and granting of a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow detached one-family dwellings in this multi-family district. This proposed development is for a student rental complex of almost 1,000 bedrooms that would be dispersed in separate houses of single and duplex dwellings throughout the development. The site plan actually looks like a typical low-density residential district. The reason we sent a letter on this was because the SUP is required to allow detached single dwellings in multiple-family districts. Explanation: before our current Subdivision Regulations were adopted, multiple dwellings on single large platted lots could be subdivided out by metes and bounds as individual townhouses and sold to separate owners, but because each did not front on a public street, the separately-owned individual dwellings had access only to private drives. [A standard single family subdivision requires that individual dwellings on their own platted lots have access directly to a public street that is maintained by the city. Land-locked lots with no access to a public street are illegal.] Note: These metes-and-bounds divisions have happened in other areas of the city and have caused problems for the homeowners who purchased the units because they later had access and maintenance problems with their private drives.

In our letter we asked that the SUP conditions include the requirement that if the units were subsequently to be sold to separate owners that the lots under the separately owned dwellings first be replatted and given access to dedicated public streets. We also asked that special attention be given to storm

drainage because of the development's proximity to the floodplain, that the occupation limits be noted (a maximum of four occupants per dwelling), and that the City provide frequent on-site inspections. **OUTCOME:** The development was adopted without our additional conditions added.

Our third letter to the PC was on Item No. 11, a request to change the comprehensive plan (CP), Horizon 2020, to enlarge the Downtown District boundaries to include a proposed commercial development in North Lawrence located just north and west of the Massachusetts Street bridge, between the river and the west side of North Second Street. This proposed development is called, variously, the North Mass Development (in the CP change request), Kaw Landing (in the Market Study), and North Lawrence Riverfront Development (in a concept plan). This proposal is for a mixed development of retail, hotel, movie theater, restaurants and office uses that would encompass a little over five acres. The supporting argument for including this in the Downtown portion of the CP (Chapter 6, Commercial Use)

is that because of its riverfront location, it would provide a "pull factor" for the downtown retail uses. That analysis is based on the consultant's market study (which actually shows that there isn't a need for more commercial zoning). A contrary study finds that the proposal would add to already overbuilt commercial space based on our population needs and, therefore, would increase the

high commercial vacancy rates even more. Our letter questioned the benefit of adding commercial use to that location and suggested that the needs of the Downtown should be restudied. **OUTCOME:** the PC deferred the item to February and it will be on the agenda again along with a rezoning request.

Our most recent action was at the February 7 City Commission (CC) meeting. The issue was a text amendment up for adoption by the CC allowing the use of artificial turf in landscaping. Our zoning regulations don't permit it, but it was used recently with staff permission as an alternative to live landscaping material at the Oread Hotel, and again, but without permission, at the Frontier Tuckaway Apartments. The



staff objected to the Frontier Apartment illegal action, which precipitated a proposal by the developer to change the zoning code to make it legal. The staff presented a strong case against the use of synthetic turf, we sent two letters opposing it to the PC, and they denied allowing it. When the text amendment appeared on the Regular Agenda last Tuesday at the City Commission meeting, our correspondence opposing it hadn't been included, and in fact, there was no opposing correspondence included, at all. In response, our Chairman, Alan Black, sent an email to the City Commission objecting to allowing artificial turf and including our attached letters that had been addressed to the PC on this issue. **OUTCOME:** The City Commission did not choose to adopt this proposed text amendment that allowed artificial turf under limited conditions, and instead instructed the staff to change the Code to send any site plan having artificial turf directly to the City Commission, rather than allowing staff to make the judgment call. However, they also allowed the existing, unauthorized synthetic turf to remain in place at the Frontier Apartments as a non-conforming use. The actual policy now is somewhat murky. This now places the use of synthetic turf within the potential of becoming an arbitrary political decision by the City Commission. Stay tuned.

mary agency that protects the environment and public health through compliance, enforcement and proactive activities. After several years of budget cuts, the Governor's 2013 budget continues those reductions. In the Bureau of Water, 3 employees of 6 in management took early retirement so the Governor decided to not replace these 3 key positions. This Bureau issues permits for livestock entities. The Local Environmental Protection Program works with 104 counties in Kansas to offer basic public health services such as being the only program to test private water wells. (1 of 9 Kansans use private water wells.) The Kansas Legislature restored \$750,000 in 2012 but the Governor zeroes out the budget for 2013. The Governor reduces funding for non-point source pollution projects from \$3 million in 2011 to \$1.9 million in 2013. The entire State Water Plan is reduced from \$16.8 million in 2012 to \$14.1 million in 2013. The Kansas' budget has a projected \$374 million ending balance for 2013.



Report from Paul Johnson LWVK Legislative Liaison

CONNECTING THE DOTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Kansas is now wide open to the development of large agricultural operations and 'horizontal fracturing' oil/natural gas wells. The Governor and his administration have been publicly recruiting this development. In light of this promotion, will the necessary balance between development and environmental protection be maintained? As environmental budgets and staff are reduced, will Kansas have an adequate response to the accelerated development? Beyond these budgetary reductions, there will be a push next year to rewrite basic environmental laws.

The Division of Environment within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment is the pri-

The Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) Conservation Division regulates and issues permits for oil and gas wells in Kansas. The Governor appoints the KCC commissioners with the approval of the Kansas Senate. The Governor's first appointee last April was Mark Sievers who was voted the Chairman of the 3-member commission. A second appointment will come in April so the Governor will have control. While the Governor has actively recruited oil/gas drillers to Kansas, the KCC will adopt new rules and regulations for 'horizontal fracturing'. These 'fracking' wells produce millions of gallons of sludge and dirt in the initial drilling. Senate Bill 375 is a bill to allow the spreading of this sludge on nearby farmland as opposed to building football size sludge pits on site. 'Fracking fluids' are then used to produce the gas and oil with the fluids hauled off site and disposed in deep injection wells. Projections are that Kansas will have 500 wells by next year and far more in coming years. The Conservation Division has 85 employees now and is getting 6 more field technicians to monitor these wells. There are so many questions concerning environmental protection regarding wells that generate millions and millions of gallons of polluted fluids in Kansas?

THE FUTURE OF KANSAS' AGRICULTURE – PART TWO

It is a good question who will be farming in the next twenty years? Right now in Kansas, only 7% of Kansas' farmers are age 35 or younger while 32% of Kansas' farmers are over the age of 65. In a recent Nebraska land sales survey, only one-third of land sales were to existing farmers while the other two-thirds went to investors. A significant number of Kansas' counties have over 50% of their farmed land rented or leased.

http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/Ag_Atlas_Maps/Operators/Tenure/07-M117

While Kansas has around 65,000 farms, just 3,268 accounted for 75% of the \$14.4 Billion in farm sales in 2007. Kansas' dairies have declined from 5,691 in 1978 to 420 today with 20 large dairies having 65% of the 120,000 dairy cows. Kansas' hog farms have declined from 13,329 in 1978 to 1,454 today with 310 accounting for 95% of all pork sales in Kansas. The Kansas Secretary of Agriculture is actively recruiting these larger dairies and swine operations. HB 2502 will make it easier for desperate western Kansas' counties to invite in corporate swine operations. HB 2603 will establish a 'guest worker' pilot program for 'undocumented' workers for employment at these corporate agricultural operations. Kansas has eliminated the estate tax and the highest priority for agri-business groups is to eliminate the federal estate tax. The independent family farm continues to die while the agricultural aristocracy takes more control.

There is a growing consumer interest for local foods. Kansans buy over \$750 million dollars of fruits and vegetables annually (\$250/per person) but only \$32 million (4%) of this produce is grown in Kansas. Kansas had over 140,000 acres in produce in 1910 while today Kansas has just 6,700 produce acres. It would only take 77,000 acres in fruits and vegetables to grow 100% of the primary fruits and vegetables consumed in Kansas. (For comparison, Kansas has 9 million acres of wheat, 4 million acres of corn and 3 million acres in soybeans.) The number of Kansas'

farmers markets has doubled to 102 in the last 10 years. At the same time, 82 of 213 supermarkets closed in smaller Kansas' communities under 2,500 in population since 2007. Several Kansas dairy producers are pasteurizing, bottling and packaging dairy products on-farm. Kansas has 90 small meat plants statewide. The simple truth is that all efforts by the Governor and his cabinet is to recruit large agri-businesses and little if any attention is given to capturing locally some of the \$2,577 spent yearly by a Kansan on food.

(For information to find local foods: <http://www.localharvest.org/>)

KANSAS ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL TAX REPORT

The Kansas Economic Progress Council (KEPC) is a statewide not for profit organization of businesses, trade associations, chambers of commerce and individuals. They support pro-growth policies for communities and the state.

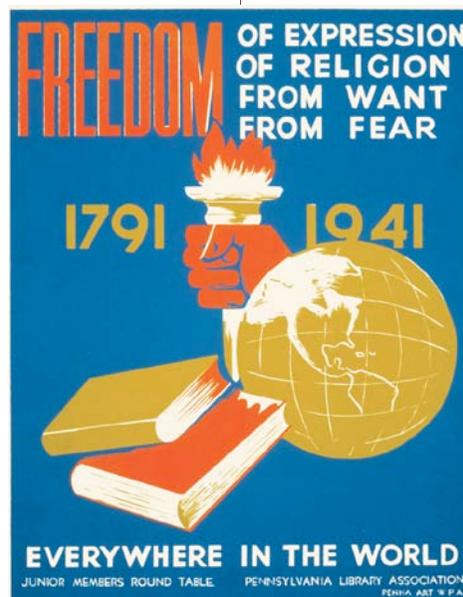
KEPC commissioned Dr. John Wong – formerly with Wichita State University – to research the economic impacts of proposals by the Kansas House and the Governor to reduce income taxes. Dr. Wong concludes that for every job created by a reduction in income tax rates, 1.63 jobs would be lost by an equal reduction in state spending. Similarly, for every dollar of labor income generated by a reduction in income

tax rates, \$1.78 would be lost by an equal reduction in state spending. This study divides Kansas taxpayers into ten income groups, and estimates combined taxes in each income group before and after the income tax reduction. The conclusion is that the proposed changes make taxes more regressive because progressive income tax receipts balance the regressive residential property and retail sales tax. The final report is: ECONOMIC IMPACT of PROPOSED TAX and SPENDING REDUCTIONS in KANSAS.

<http://ksepc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Economic-Impact-tax-reductions-KEPC-Study.pdf>

MENTAL HEALTH UPDATE

The funding for community mental health centers continues to suffer in Kansas. While the statewide



grant to cover the uninsured was over \$30 million just three years ago, the present funding is just \$10 million. Mental health funding for children at \$5.6 million is now under attack. This funding comes from tobacco settlement funds that Kansas has used for years for several children programs. The Governor is worried Kansas will only receive \$40 million this year instead of \$56 million that is anticipated by most advocates. Mental health programs will be moved from SRS to the Department of Aging & Disability Services on July 1. By January 1, 2013, all Medicaid mental health services will come through managed care plans administered by private health insurance companies. You can read up on these details by going to the website: <http://www.acmhck.org/> and clicking on Legislative Advocacy on the left side of this homepage.

utility rate case by Westar – the largest electric utility in Kansas. Westar asked for a \$90 million increase in rates while CURB is fighting for a much smaller increase. The public still has time to voice their concerns over this rate case. Click on the website for CURB: <http://curb.kansas.gov/> and click on the top item – CURB to Fight Westar/KCC Settlement Agreement. CURB has a very informative newsletter to keep you up to date on electric and natural gas issues.

VOTING NOTES

The Kansas House Elections committee has voted out Kris Kobach’s bill that will move from January 1, 2013 to June 15, 2012 the date mandating citizenship proof to be able to register to vote.

For voters who want to change their party affiliation in order to vote in the August primary, a voter will have to make this change by July 17.

CITIZENS’ UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD (CURB)

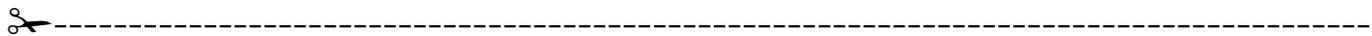
CURB represents residential and small businesses in utility rate cases before the Kansas Corporation Commission. CURB is quite concerned over the



**Book Your Own Adventure ~
Join the League!**

Joining at the local level automatically makes you a member of the State and National Leagues. Dues for LWV Lawrence-Douglas County are \$50 for a single membership and \$75 for a household membership (two members sharing one mailing address). Dues are used to cover our [per-member payments](#) to LWV-Kansas and LWV-US. Money we raise ourselves covers all local expenses. The League year begins April 1 and ends March 31. The date listed above your name on the address label on your VOTER is the date through which your dues have been paid.

PLEASE FILL IN THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN TO: Membership Chair, LWV L-DC, P.O. Box 1072, Lawrence KS 66044



PLEASE PRINT

Date _____ Joining _____ Renewing through March 31, 2013

_____ Individual Membership (\$50) _____ Household Membership (\$75)

_____ Student Membership (\$20) - University student enrolled full or part time in an accredited institution
Student membership includes email-only newsletter; please give an email address.

I have enclosed a contribution of \$ _____ to help sponsor a League membership.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Would you like to be added to the LWV L-DC email listserv? Yes No

Would you prefer your VOTER printed and mailed, or emailed? Printed Emailed
(Emailed VOTERS are delivered sooner and include live links to the League website and other interesting places!)