

VOTER



Vol. 57, Issue 1—August 2015

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The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, non-profit organization of women and men of every age, race, background and political belief. Through more than 1,200 local Leagues, state Leagues and the national organization, League members work to promote citizen action on local, state, and national issues.

DUANE SCHRAG: Water in Kansas

FALL ** ISSUES ** FORUM

7:00pm, MONDAY, AUGUST 31

Salina Public Library, Prescott Room

Will there be water for tomorrow's Kansans?

On Monday evening, August 31, former Salina Journal reporter Duane Schrag will share his research into the waters of Kansas.

In 2007, Schrag wrote an extensive series of Journal articles on the state of our water.

He will update us at the Fall Issues Forum. According to Schrag's research, Kansas has long over-appropriated its groundwater, giving permits to pump out far more than is replenished underground. He will review the implications of that situation,

including deeper wells, lower water tables and, at some point, depletion.

A recent state initiative aiming to make a "vision" for the future of water in Kansas simply postponed the drying up of Kansas rivers by a decade or two.

Schrag will discuss what a healthy "vision" for water

might look like. Schrag now works for The Land Institute southeast of Salina.

The Fall Issues Forum is open to the public at no charge. Cookies and coffee will be provided.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Presidential election process is off to a pathetic, frightening spectacle of crass propaganda and hype that would be totally irrelevant if we had a rational, thinking electorate eager to get out and vote for candidates that showed a prospect of providing leadership for a government of the people by the people and for the people.

It is our job, our "agenda" if you like the terminology of our county commissioners, to encourage people to register to vote, become educated in the issues and candidates, and then actually go out and vote in the 2016 elections.

Toward this end, we—primarily Ann Zimmerman, David Norlin and Carla Strand—have spent the entire summer gaining approval from our

City-County Building Authority for volunteers to approach people who are standing in line for the Car tag office to ask them to register to vote while they are in the building.

We have also planned a series of educational meetings on one of the major long-term issues for our state and country – water resources and their management and regulation. These begin at 7:00 pm in the Prescott Room of the Salina Public Li-



brary, Monday evening, August 31. They will continue through the Fall Lunch and Learn series. Please participate and urge your friends to come along. The 2016 election primaries are less than a year away. Things will be dramatically different in that City, County and School Board Elections have been moved by state law to November of even numbered years from their previous April odd numbered year dates. All State, federal, and local elections will occur at the same time.

Please participate!

Abner

THIS JUST OUT from the National LWV:

Every two years, the national League of Women Voters publishes its up-to-date list of "program positions"—the results of all the official national LWV studies over the years—in a booklet called **"Impact on Issues: A Guide to Public Policy Positions."**

This year, "Impact on Issues 2014-2016" is primarily online, available for all League members and all the world to read.

Have you ever wondered about the League's position on a particular issue? Now you can see.

Here is the web address: lwv.org/content/impact-issues.

At that site, you can access the entire 83-page document by clicking on "online version," or download a section, such as:

- ◆ Principles
- ◆ Positions in brief
- ◆ International Relations
- ◆ Natural Resources
- ◆ Representative Government
- ◆ Social Policy

Each category and its subsections are the product of years of research, study and consensus building among the members of our premier non-partisan non-profit organization, fostering wise policies since 1920.

CALENDAR



AUG	
18	Board Meeting
31	Fall Issues Forum
SEP	
8	Lunch & Learn
15	Board Meeting
OCT	
13	Lunch & Learn
20	Board Meeting
NOV	
10	Lunch & Learn
17	Board Meeting
DEC	No meetings Happy Holidays!

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

US President:
Barack Obama



KS GOVERNOR:
Sam Brownback



US SENATE:
Pat Roberts
Jerry Moran

KS SENATE:
Tom Arpke

US HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES:
Tim Huelskamp

KS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES:
Dist. 69—J.R. Clays
Dist. 71—Diana Dierks
Dist. 108—Steven Johnson

GLEANINGS FROM THE LWVK CONVENTION

Last April, just after the previous Voter newsletter was published, four Salina League members attended the biennial convention of the Kansas League of Women Voters (lwvk.org)

Abner Perney, Lori and Mike Trow and Ann Zimmerman gathered with dozens of League members from across Kansas to conduct the business of the League.

The new position on “Fracking” was adopted after two years of study and discussion (including a presentation at the Salina League’s annual meeting). Convention-goers voted to start a new study on the timely issue of education funding for the coming two years.

CITY-COUNTY BUILDING VOTER REGISTRATION PLANS

Kansas Leagues have a big challenge registering voters since the passage of some of the nation’s most restrictive voter registration laws. To register, potential Kansas voters have to hunt down their proof of citizenship—in the form of a birth certificate, naturalization papers or passport.

State League recommends that League members not handle any of these very personal documents.

So when a potential voter completes the voter registration form, only part of the job is done.

League members decided to request permission to set up a table at the City-County Building outside the tag office where a line forms at the end of each month. The hope is that citizens with nothing else to do will register.

If voters bring proof of citizenship, they can walk down the hall to the County Clerk’s office, Room 215, and complete their registration by showing the required documents there.

After three months of requests to the City-County Building Authority, permission is granted, albeit with a restriction that we not post a sign saying we are the League of Women Voters.

If you want to help, contact us.

One of the most in-depth presentations was by Annie McKay and Duane Goossen of the Kansas Center for Economic Growth. McKay (formerly of KU’s Institute for Educational Research and Public Service) and Goossen (former budget director for the state of Kansas under Gov. Graves, Sebelius and Parkinson) presented disturbing numbers on the \$15 billion Kansas budget as it stood in April.

The two sources that make up 85% of state income are Sales & Use Tax (42.3%) and Individual Income Tax (42.2%). 7.1% comes from Corporate Income Tax. All other taxes (tobacco, liquor, severance, etc.)

make up the remaining 8%.

K-12 education takes 50.3% of state expenses, Medicaid: 20.1%, higher education 12.6%, the remaining 17%: public safety, human services, ag & natural resources, etc.

Kansas’s plan to eliminate income tax leaves it increasingly dependent on sales tax and cuts to services, including services to counties and cities. Seventy Kansas counties raised local taxes to avoid service cuts.

The state tax cuts disproportionately affect the poorest Kansans—including cuts to health departments, public libraries, community corrections and parks and recreation. See much more at: realprosperityks.com.

NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE SALINA LEAGUE

Josephine A. Hernandez joined the Salina League of Women Voters in hopes of contributing to the League’s work—which it manages to do “in such a comprehensive and informative manner,” she says. Josephine has been a League member off and on over her many years in Salina as she has had the time.

Her certifications add many letters to her name: LWCSW, LCAC, CCH. She has taught here professionally in public schools, served many years as a social worker for the state of Kansas, for private agencies and as a self-employed counselor and mental health and addictions therapist.

She has four daughters and five sons. Her children live on both coasts and in other states in addition to the two daughters who live with her—Paula and Teresa.

Josephine loves trying to keep track of her children and grandchildren. In both Spanish and English, she happily shares what she knows about the human condition: health, safety, and comfort, not only physically but emotionally, socially and spiritually.

Betty Rassette joined the League because it is an excellent information source, and she has admired the League’s presentations. Betty grew up on a farm and graduated from Frankfort High School. She still loves the outdoors and nature—as reflected in the extensive flower gardens at her home.

She graduated from K-State with a degree in Home Economics and taught in Abilene. After marrying and moving to Salina with her late husband Richard, she taught in Kipp and Culver rural high schools, then began teaching foods and nutrition at Salina High School. While there, she earned a masters degree from KSU in Special Education. She taught Child Development and General Science, retiring in 1993 after 30 years at Central.

Son Brian and wife Sue live in the Kansas City area. Daughter Diane Shandy and husband Randy are in Salina.

Betty enjoys volunteering—she works with Meals on Wheels and Sunrise Presbyterian Church. She exercises at the YMCA, belongs to a book club and quilts in her free time when she is not traveling.

WELCOME JOSEPHINE AND BETTY!



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Fall Lunch & Learns: 2nd Tues. of the month, 12:15pm

This fall, the Salina League focuses on **WATER**. See Page 1 for our Fall Issues Forum with Duane Schrag.

LUNCH & LEARN continues the theme from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. each second Tuesday at the **Salina Public Library's Prescott Room**.

SEPTEMBER 8

Elaine Giessel will discuss world-wide water issues—how a changing climate affects the oceans and the repercussions for lives on the Great Plains.

Elaine, from the Johnson County League, is familiar to Salina members from her excellent talk on “fracking” at the annual meeting last April.

OCTOBER 13

Jane Corman Anderson is the new executive director of “Friends of the River” smokyhillriver.org. Jane began in that position this year aiming to further the mission of F.O.R.: “to restore the natural channel of the Smoky Hill River to its role as an integral part of the aesthetic, recreational and economic life of Salina.”

The original river channel that winds through the heart of Salina was cut off with a flood control bypass in the 1950s.

Join Jane to hear her organization’s hopes and plans.

NOVEMBER 10

Martha Tasker serves as Salina’s Director of Utilities, meaning she is in charge of Salina’s water (among other things).

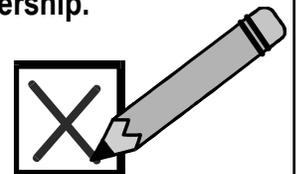
The Salina Utilities Department has its own mission: To provide safe, reliable and high quality Water and Wastewater Systems with superior service and value.

Martha will give us her knowledgeable view of the state of Salina’s water supply.

LUNCH & LEARN is always open to the public. Feel free to bring your lunch and eat during the talk.

Become a member of the League of Women Voters of Salina or renew your League Membership.

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 \$47.00
- _____ Family Membership (circle one)
 - Contributing Level \$80.00
 - Sustaining Level \$68.00
- _____ Student Membership \$20.00

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

For more information, please contact: **David Norlin, Membership Chair**
 Telephone: 825-7847 Email: davidnor@sbcglobal.net

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