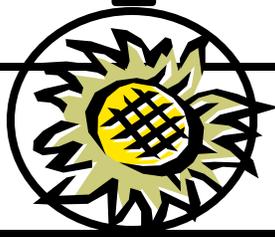
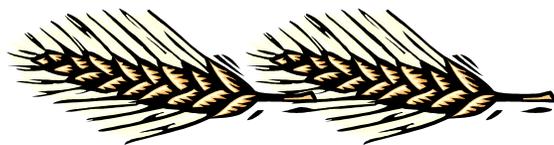


VOTER



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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 1,200 local Leagues, state Leagues and the national organization, League members work to promote citizen action on local, state, and national issues.

MEDICARE FOR ALL?

**FALL ISSUES FORUM, Monday, August 25, 2014
7:00pm, Salina Public Library, Prescott Room**

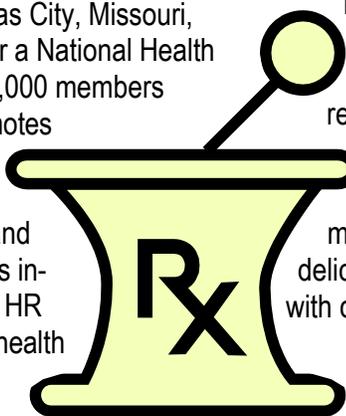
David Kingsley presents a vision of MEDICARE FOR ALL at the Salina League of Women Voters "Fall Issues Forum" 7:00 p.m., Monday, August 25.

Kingsley, from Kansas City, Missouri, represents Physicians for a National Health Plan. PNHP has over 19,000 members across the U.S and promotes a single-payer national health program as the most efficient, effective and fair option for the U.S., as introduced in Congress as HR 676. PNHP, working for health care reform since 1987, contends that a single-payer plan would result in fewer administrative costs to doctors as well as coverage for

every American. PNHP works with physicians and other health professionals to educate about such a system, while performing research on the health system and needed reform. It participates in town hall meetings and debates, and contributes scholarly articles to peer-reviewed medical journals.

The Salina LWV hosts its issues forum during the fall semester each year. Emma Doherty's delicious cookies will be served along with coffee and tea.

The public is welcome, and health care professionals are especially urged to attend and contribute to the discussion. See more from David Kingsley on Page 3.



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REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

We're living in a crazy, messed up world—where teenagers are more likely to be shot to death if their skin is dark, where a rising sea devours its shores as billionaires (anonymously) declare all is well, where prairie summer thunderstorms regularly turn into unstoppable meatgrinders, and where we in the land of the free are about 600 times more likely than the British to die from a bullet.

What difference does the League of Women Voters make?

Since its beginning in 1920, the League has worked to make sure every eligible voter has the chance to cast a vote, and to provide those voters with the information they need to cast their votes wisely. League members live in the hope that democracy can work if voters are well-informed and willing to participate in the process of governing themselves.

Democracy does not seem to be working well these days. People of good will may disagree on the reasons. Maybe we all just aren't trying hard enough.

The Salina League has its eye on issues and elections.

On the front page and page 3, you read about the Fall Issues Forum. (We used to call it the Membership Meeting but decided to adjust the name to encourage attendance by members and non-members alike.)

Senior citizens and younger disabled people—**Medicare patients**—tend to be quite satisfied with their medical coverage. Can that satisfaction be spread to the rest of the population? Would it mean dependable coverage for the entire country? Would such a system reduce doctors' administrative headaches? Or would it increase frustration? Would it lower the quality of care for those who currently have good health care?

Come and join the discussion.

Next, the **November elections are FULL of local decisions to be made.**

Wednesday, October 8, is our candidate forum. We know we will have a

new District 1 county commissioner—will it be Stephanie Cool or Monte Shadwick? JR Claeys and Gary Swartzendruber will vie for your votes in the 69th District. Join us at the Chamber of Commerce annex near Seventh and Ash Streets.

This year's ballot will be packed with proposals:

Do you want the fluoride removed from Salina's water? Do you want a big new jail built with new Saline Co. sales tax? Do you want our county commission expanded to five? Do you want to legalize raffles for charities? **ALL THESE QUESTIONS ARE ON YOUR BALLOT.**

Do you want a new governor? For the US House, will you choose Jim Sherow or Tim Huelskamp? Jim Ward, Pat Roberts or Greg Orman for US Senate?

High dollar campaigns can pack the airwaves, misinformation can rule the internet, but you are still the one who checks the boxes in the voting booth.

Participate in democracy. Get good information. It's a little easier with help from the League of Women Voters.

—Ann Zimmerman
Salina LWV Vice President



CALENDAR



AUG.		
25	Issues Forum:	Medicare for All
SEP.		
11	Board Meeting	
OCT.		
14	Lunch & Learn	
14	Board meeting	
NOV.		
4	General Election	
11	Lunch & Learn	
11	Board meeting	

LEAGUE SYMPATHIES TO THE PERNEYS

Dylan Perney, son of Salina League of Women Voters president Abner Perney and member Kathyne Perney, spent the 38 years of his life in a struggle with his heart—a congenital heart defect that required several cardiac surgeries throughout his active life. He died from complications of surgery on July 31, 2014. With college degrees in Religion and Philosophy and a graduate degree in Ancient World History, he

worked as a computer programmer at Salina Vortex. According to his obituary, Dylan loved guns, bacon, Skittles, the outdoors, books, history, bad movies, sci-fi, boogers, bad puns, role-play games and just talking to people. He is survived by his wife Teri, his brother Adam (wife Bai) and his parents. Our hearts go out to Abner and Kathyne, and we give Abner a break on his president's report till next issue.

LETTER FROM DAVID KINGSLEY

Representing "Physicians for a National Health Plan"

Many people - me included - would rather see a government-administered, single-payer health care system such as the non-privatized portion of Medicare. We did not get that with the Affordable Care Act. Given that passage of any universal health care system would be difficult enough, most of us accept the ACA as a step ahead. Indeed, we need to give the Obama Administration credit and even praise for taking on the excessive expenditures, fraud, and inefficiencies in the Medicare program. The ACA included a large number of required cost controls and efficiencies in Medicare.

You may not have heard much about it, and the press isn't going to sing its

praises, but the Center for Medicare Services has made some great headway in lowering costs in the non-privatized portion of Medicare. For instance, the expenditures for part A dropped by two tenths of one percent over last year - from \$266.8 billion to \$266.2 billion. This may not seem like a lot but it is an historical achievement. Never, to my knowledge, has any part of the program been reduced from one year to the next. This has happened without any significant cuts in benefits and while health care inflation continues to out-

strip inflation in practically any other good or service included in the Consumer Price Index.

However, not all of the news derived from this year's Medicare Trustees' report is good. The privatized portion of Medicare (Part C) continues to increase at a very high rate - 7.1% in 2013, 10.0% in 2012, and 6.7% in 2011. This should not surprise anyone. The CMS expends approximately 1.4% of revenues on administration of the program. We know intuitively that privatized health care cannot match that. High executive salaries, advertising/marketing, and returns to investors will render a single-payer, public system less costly than a privatized, market system.



HOW TO CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

GOVERNOR:

Sam Brownback:
 Statehouse 241-S
 Topeka, KS 66612-1590
 Phone: 877-KSWORKS
 (877-579-6757)

Email the Governor through his website: <http://governor.ks.gov>

US SENATE:

Pat Roberts, (202) 224-4774
 109 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510-1605
<http://roberts.senate.gov>

Jerry Moran, (202) 224-6521; NEW:
 361A Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510
<http://moran.senate.gov>

US HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES:

Tim Huelskamp, (202) 225-2715
 309-0572 (Salina office)
 126 Cannon House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515
<http://huelskamp.house.gov>



KANSAS SENATE:

Tom Arpke, 827-8940, 785-296-7369
 512 West Iron Avenue, Salina
tom.arpke@senate.ks.gov

KS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES:

Dist. 69—J.R. Claeys, 250-5758
 2356 Montclair Dr., Salina
jrclaeys@house.ks.gov
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Dist. 108—Steven Johnson
 785-667-6601
 10197 S. Hopkins Rd., Assaria 67416
steven.johnson@house.ks.gov
 Topeka phone: 785-296-7696

I am writing this to a select group of my colleagues because I believe that we have overwhelming empirical evidence to support a program known as "Medicare for All," which is being advanced by the Physicians for a National Care Plan (PNHP). Dr. Ed Weisbart of St. Louis is heading up the effort in our region to move the plan forward. Dr. Weisbart has created an impressive presentation and has a very well qualified group of physicians and other health care professionals trained to speak to groups. If you have an audience interested in knowing how we can move forward legislation for transforming Medicaid, the ACA, and Medicare into one, fair and just health care system please let me know.

Sincerely,
 Dave Kingsley, PhD

THE POWER OF ADVANCE BALLOTS

Until mail-in ballots are allowed for regular elections, your best option is an ADVANCE BALLOT.

[NOTE: This letter from Salina LWV Board Member Kay Tarr was printed in the Salina Journal on Monday, July 28, 2014, p. A7]

Now that election season is here, the following questions might be appropriate to ask:

● *Are you happy with government officials in Kansas and Saline County?*

Constant turmoil and conflict regarding decisions made by the governor and Legislature in Topeka and the Saline County commissioners indicate the majority of voters are displeased with those in office. An apparent remedy for this is to elect different people.

● *How do we elect people whose views are more representative of the majority of Kansas voters?*

Obviously, having great candidates running for offices is the cornerstone. However, getting the maximum number of informed voters to actually vote is necessary to ensure that the outcome represents the views and beliefs of the majority of registered voters.

In this year's Salina School District bond election, why did 61 percent of registered voters turn out rather than the usual 12 to 13 percent who normally vote in school board elections?

This bond issue is a positive example of getting more people out to vote their beliefs. Often, disgruntled people who are not supporters of education are the most motivated to vote against bond issues. There, the decision was made to have a mail-in ballot election, which Kansas law allows in certain instances where no candidates are involved.

The astonishing result was that 61 percent of registered voters in the district voted and overwhelmingly passed the bond issue, 60 to 40 percent. This was a remarkable result and a situation where voter turnout ensured that the majority of registered voters had their voices heard.

● *How do we "get the vote out" for the general election this year, in order for the majority of registered Kansas voters to decide the outcome?*

Since current Kansas law does not allow mail-in ballot elections for candidates in primary or general elections,

this is not an option. County clerks throughout Kansas are considering a

proposal to make mail-ins optional for all elections. This proposal would then be given to the Legislature for its consideration. Until that has been approved, aggressive advance ballot campaigns appear to be the best method of getting out the most voter response.

The county clerk's office has a specific procedure where voters may request advance ballots at any time, either in person, by phone or by mail. The request is actually for an application that will be sent out at the appropriate time before the election. Once that has been completed and signed by the voter, the advanced ballot will be sent to the voter who requested it.

Signatures are checked after the process is done. After completing the ballot, the voter returns it to the county clerk's office.

Voters can still request that advanced ballots be sent to them for this election. Just call County Clerk Don Merriman's

office, at 309-5820. In the general election, no party affiliation needs to be designated.

The general election this year is a perfect example of the value of an advance ballot. All the candidates will be on the ballot, as well as retention of judges, local ballot measures involving number of county commissioners, water fluoridation and sales tax for a new jail, and a state constitutional amendment regarding raffles.

It will take a lot of time to review the ballot and make informed decisions on all these issues and candidates. Using an advance ballot will ensure that voters can take as much time as necessary in the privacy of their own homes.

Do you want true representative government in your county and your state? If you do, please request an advance ballot. Ask all those you know to do the same. Write letters to the Salina Journal. Join the effort to get as many advance ballots requested and returned as possible. We can elect officials to represent the beliefs of the majority of our citizens—it just takes a little effort.

—Kay Tarr

Salina LWV Board Member

ADVANCE BALLOTS give you a chance to think about and investigate your voting decisions before you walk into the voting booth.

APOLOGY For Long Delayed Voter

Voter editor Ann Zimmerman simply ran out of time this spring and summer, leaving the Salina LWV without a newsletter.

Remember to "Like" the Salina LWV Facebook page, a great way for us to send out information quickly and easily.

If you have interest and/or skill in writing, editing or communicating, contact Ann to join the effort in keeping League members and the Salina community informed.

DRIVE FOR FIVE: 5-Member County Commission?

League member Janice Norlin gives us a quick rundown of the possible benefits of having five county commissioners—followed by Tim Horan's summary of the many possible short-term outcomes.

WHY 5 COMMISSIONERS ARE BETTER THAN 3:

- Prevents ganging up and/or bullying
- Promotes consensus building
- Fosters better discussion/decision-making
- Creates smaller districts
- Allows discussion between two without violating the Kansas Open Meetings Act

IT DOES NOT HAVE TO COST MORE:

- Remember, the commissioners set their own salaries.
- The work is spread out among five.
- A professional administrator should manage day to day operations to eliminate micro-managing.
- Any increase in cost will be a tiny fraction of the county budget and *less than the cost of bad decisions.*

FROM THE SALINA JOURNAL:

After his loss in the Aug. 5 Salina County Commission 1st District GOP primary to Monte Shadwick, could current Chairman Randy Duncan continue to serve as a county commissioner through 2016?

It's possible.

Could the county commission, historically dominated by the Republican Party, be controlled by the Democratic Party next year?

It's possible.

Could the next county commission, which has had only two women in its history serve as a commissioners, have a majority of women next year?

That, too, is possible.

County Counselor Mike Montoya on Tuesday explained a variety of outcomes that could occur should voters on Nov. 4 elect to expand the county commission from three to five members. The ballot issue was being pushed by the Citizens for Responsible Government and its Drive for Five petition effort.

Montoya told commissioner that if the

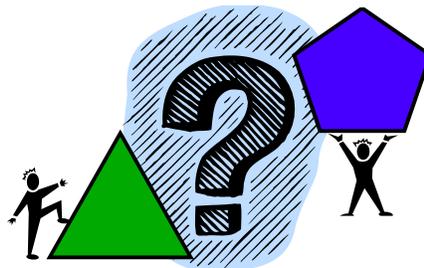
election issue passes, they'll have to divide the county into five districts, expanding it from the current three districts, and that now is a good time to get started.

"Start looking at that," Montoya advised. "The three of you will be doing that."

Duncan returns to office?

● So how could Duncan get back on the commission even after being eliminated in the Aug. 5 primary? Here's what would have to happen under an expanded commission:

Duncan would have to indicate that he was interested in one of the two new positions. Then, Gov. Sam Brownback, a Republican, would have to be re-elected, because the governor will appoint the new commissioners, and Brownback's probably not going to appoint a Democrat. Finally, Duncan would have to be selected by Brownback.



The Dem's best scenario

● How could the Democrats come to dominate the expanded commission? Here's what would have to happen:

First, Democrat Stephanie Cool would have to defeat Republican Monte Shadwick for Duncan's seat, District No. 1. Then, Paul Davis would have to defeat Brownback for the governorship.

Then, Davis would be able to appoint a couple of Democrats to go along with Cool, and Democrats would rule.

● Saline County has had only two women county commissioners in its more than 150-year existence. So how could women come to dominate a five-person commission? The scenario would be similar to the Democrat-majority one.

Cool would have to defeat Shadwick, and then whoever appoints the next two

commissioners would appoint women.

What state law requires

Montoya said that state law says the districts must, as much as possible, be "compact and by population," and not by the number of registered voters in each district.

Montoya said the governor would appoint the new commissioners to two-year terms. An election for those two new districts would be in 2016.

County Clerk Don Merriman said precinct lines wouldn't change.

Commissioner John Price said he would like to start looking at map choices.

"That's the way we operate, being ahead of the game," Commissioner Jim Gile said.

If the ballot issue passes, those interested in serving on the commission and who live in the two empty districts can fill out forms and send them to the governor, Montoya said.

Montoya said if Duncan was interested in being appointed, or being "a person of interest," the districts should be divided by Price and Gile to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Lots of Assumptions

Duncan said a lot of assumptions are being made.

"It's (the proposed expansion) on the ballot but we don't know if it is going to be yes or no," he said. "But if it's yes, we will have a lot to do in very little time."

Could be done by judge

Montoya said if the issue passes, the current commissioners would have until Jan. 1 to split the county into five districts. If that does not get accomplished this year, chief judge of the 28th Judicial District, Jerome Hellmer, has until Jan. 31 to decide the five districts.

Merriman said the Kansas governor takes office on the second Monday in January, or Jan. 12.

--Reporter Tim Horan can be reached at 822-1422 or thoran@salina.com

[Note: This article was reprinted with permission from the Wednesday, August 8, 2014, Salina Journal.]

RAFFLE MEASURE ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

On the November 4 ballot, Kansas voters will be able to vote whether or not to make raffles a legal form of gaming in Kansas. Until then, raffles of any nature continue to be illegal.

The Kansas Constitution bans all forms of lotteries. The one exception is in a 1986 amendment legalizing the state's lottery and state-owned casinos

Kansas organizations have figured out ways to get around the ban by asking for donations rather than payment for a raffle ticket, but they supposedly weren't entitled to link the two and would technically have to let anyone be eligible to win a prize, whether or not they made a donation. It's a technicality that can catch groups if they aren't careful.

If the proposed amendment passes, non-profit, religious, charitable, fraternal, educational and veterans organizations may apply for a raffle license. Political candidates and for-profit businesses would not meet the qualifications, and the raffles could not be conducted through electronic means or vending machines.

During the 2015 Legislative Session, lawmakers will then write the statutes regulating raffles.

Lawmakers will be considering several items including:

- The cost of a raffle license.
- How often an organization can conduct raffles.
- Will all organizations need a raffle license if the prize value is minimal?
- Will the sale of raffle tickets be taxable?
- Can organizations make their own tickets or do tickets need to be purchased from a licensed distributor?

The Kansas Department of Revenue will oversee the licensing and regulation of raffles if the constitutional amendment passes.

[Information for this article came from the Kansas Dept. of Revenue and the Lawrence Journal World websites.]

ANNUAL MEETING: Gary Flory on Restorative Justice

"Crime is a breach of relationships."

Gary Flory, director of the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR) at Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas, told the Salina League of Women Voters 2014 Annual Meeting, that to repair the breach, the entire community must be involved.

This is called **Restorative Justice**.

Punishment has a poor record at changing behavior, Flory said at the April 5 meeting. The record of restorative practices is much better.

Wichita West High School is in its third year of instituting such practices.

In one recent case, Flory came in to assist. A 6'3", 240 pound sophomore had been tazed by a school resource officer. Flory described the student, "Michael," as intimidating but a "teddy bear" who had made physical contact with a substitute teacher.

Flory called for a "restorative practices circle" – it included Michael, his grandmother, his sports coach, church leader, counselor, school psychologist. Flory said other students would have been involved had this conflict involved two students.

Michael was a special needs student with impulsive behavior. At the end of the circle process, Michael was issued a special card. It allowed him to leave any classroom if he found himself heading toward impulsive behavior and then make a beeline for the office.

Without this process, Michael would likely have ended up incarcerated and

on a path to a lifelong involvement in the criminal justice system.

Flory contends that "fair treatment" does not mean treating everybody alike. "Zero Tolerance"—automatically expelling students when they exhibit unacceptable behavior—does not work.

Students, both children and adolescents, need to have a strong connection with their school. They need to know they matter as human beings.

Studies of inmates show that their most common characteristics are 1)

substance abuse and 2) they dropped out or were kicked out of school. One Texas study showed students of color and special education students were expelled at far, far higher rates than white students.

Flory urged listeners to think of behavior issues as a breach of relationship and only secondarily as a violation of rules. First, ask: What's the harm? Second, ponder how to make it right, and who is responsible for making it right.

The experience in schools implementing restorative practices? **Suspensions are down, the number of students in school is up, and teacher turnover is down.**

KIPCOR provided training for school personnel in restorative discipline over the past two years through a grant from the Kansas Department of Education.

The Salina League of Women Voters was disappointed to learn that no Salina educators attended that free training.

Gary Flory's presentation followed the Salina LWV 2014 annual meeting.



OTHER BALLOT ISSUES:

Jail Sales Tax

According to Sheriff Glenn Kochanowski, a half-cent sales tax over 15 years can pay for a \$46.5 million, three-story jail and justice complex and parking facility.

Two of three Saline County commissioners approved the ballot measure, with Commissioner Randy Duncan preferring to emphasize keeping inmates out of jail and expanding the current jail.

The jail advisory committee plans to promote the sales tax option throughout the county up to election day.

The tax increase would “max out” the county’s sales tax authority unless the legislature grants special extra authority. Commissioners do not want to increase property taxes and are concerned about Saline County being charged for its inmates housed in other counties.

Commissioner John Price described overcrowding and very poor conditions at the current facility. The sheriff plans to publish 800 photos on his website (www.salinsheriff.org) showing existing working conditions.

One particular problem is the increase in female prisoners. When the current jail was built, it housed 20 females. As of mid August, 2014, the jail had 59 women, and the number keeps growing.

The new facility would house the county attorney’s office, courtrooms, Court Services, Community Corrections (now in an office on Santa Fe), a 344-bed jail, parking and other improvements.

Saline County pays \$500,000 yearly rent for the City-County Building’s third floor where courts and offices are now located. If they cannot lease out that space, they would continue to have to pay that rent.

If the ballot measure passes, collection of the new sales tax would begin April 1, 2015.

[Information for this article came from the Salina Journal and Topeka Capital Journal.]

FLUORIDE IN SALINA’S WATER - AN OPINION

This November’s ballot will ask a question about fluoride. Should Salina discontinue adding fluoride to its municipal water supply? A YES vote means you do not want fluoride in the water. A NO vote means you want the city to continue adding fluoride to Salina’s water as has been done since the mid 1960s.

On November 7, 2013, I served as moderator for a public forum on fluoridation of Salina’s municipal water. I worked hard to ensure that each side was allowed full opportunity to state its case without heckling or cheering from the audience and that both sides remained within the set time limits for presentation.

As moderator, I listened carefully to the arguments and evidence for both the pro-fluoridation and the anti-fluoridation sides.

My job was to be a neutral moderator of the forum. But I was not required to remain neutral after the forum was over. And although I live “out in the county” and thus can’t vote on the issue, I came away with strong opinions.

My first observation was that all four members of the pro-fluoridation panel were health care professionals from Salina, including two dentists, one school nurse and one physician from the Salina Family Healthcare Clinic. One of the members of the anti-fluoridation panel was from Salina. She was not a health care provider. The other three were from Wichita—one doctor, one chiropractor, and one man who seemed to be employed in the mission of eliminating fluoridation without any other employment.

Simply being from Wichita does not necessarily discount the panel’s expertise. However, we can know with more confidence the character and reputation of the presenters when they come from our own town. Wichita, incidentally, does not fluoridate its water but has a ballot proposal to begin doing so in this election.

In the anti-fluoride presentation, there was much emphasis on the dangers of fluorosis, the result of too much fluoride in

the body. One panel member talked about incidents in China where levels of fluoride in water are many times the level considered safe in the U.S.—thus far above Salina’s levels. He mentioned the Harvard School of Public Health and described it as being a branch of the federal government. I stated that Harvard is a private university, not a branch of the government, expecting him to chuckle at his misstatement, but he took offense and said he would debate me on that point. The doctor on the panel cited a small study of about 30 children in north-central Kansas schools showing higher rates of cavities than a group of about 200 children in Wichita. I looked up this study after the forum. It did not involve a single Salina school.

The pro-fluoridation panel cited a study of thousands of children with fluoridated water compared with a similar number of children without fluoride, and the number of cavities was markedly lower with fluoride. Not one of the panel members, in all their years of Salina practice, had ever seen a serious case of fluorosis. One dentist stated that the cost of fluoridating water was 30 cents per year per person, compared with \$9 per month per person to treat individual children with fluoride drops. And filling one cavity would cost about \$150.

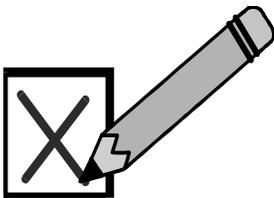
The audience was largely anti-fluoride. One questioner stated that taking your child for regular dental care eliminates the need for fluoride in the water, and the whole community should not have to make up for some kid’s bad parents. This seemed especially mean-spirited. Some parents make bad decisions—should that doom their children to poor health when 30 cents a year will greatly improve their lives? Many more parents have little income and cannot afford \$9 per month plus with the cost of dental checkups. Should poor children be made to suffer?

I do not get to vote on this issue, but I hope that if you are a Salina citizen, you will vote NO and keep fluoride in the water.

—Ann Zimmerman

League of Women Voters of Salina
PO Box 502
Salina, KS 67402-0502
www.lwvsalina.org

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

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

For more information, please contact: **David Norlin, Membership Chair**
608 E. Republic, Salina, Kansas 67401
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**.