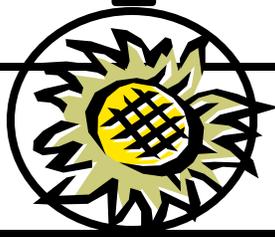
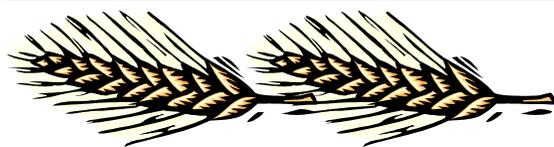


# VOTER



**Vol. 54, Issue 2—August 2013**  
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*tive Action*

*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.*

## ***The DEATH PENALTY in KANSAS?***

**FALL ISSUES FORUM—MON., AUG. 19, 7pm—LIBRARY, Prescott Room**

Kristin Bollig, regional organizer for the Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty, was instrumental in abolishing the death penalty in Connecticut and is hoping for a repeat performance in Kansas. She will discuss capital punishment, and the efforts to eliminate it, at the Salina League's Fall Issues Forum, 7:00pm, Monday, August 19, Salina Public Library, Prescott Room.

After graduating from St. Louis University with a Master's Degree in Social Work, Kristin moved to Connecticut to work as a field organizer at the Connecticut Network to Abolish the Death Penalty. The Connecticut League of Women Voters was a major supporter of that repeal effort. Kristin worked closely with the state and local Leagues, coordinating their advocacy efforts.

After a repeal bill passed in Connecticut, Kristin joined the effort in Kansas.

The League of Women Voters U.S. and the Kansas League of Women Voters have both passed positions opposing capital punishment because of, among other problems, the risk of executing an innocent person and the enormous costs to the state to prosecute such cases.

Kristin will cover these and other issues in-depth on August 19. She will include ideas for members to take action if they choose.

Kristin is a member of the Topeka/Shawnee County LWV. Read more about the death penalty and about Kristin on Page 3.

The Fall Issues Forum is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.



## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

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## REPORT FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT, ABNER PERNEY

When I was called and asked to be nominated as president of the Salina League of Women Voters, I happened to be in the office of Martha Murchison, Pastor of Sunrise Presbyterian Church. When I told her the subject of the call, she burst out into the heartiest laughter I've ever seen from her! If she hadn't had her seat belt fastened, I think she would have fallen out of her office chair. I didn't think it was that funny, but I had to ask Ardean, "What are you thinking?" Well, I accepted, the election proceeded and here we are 4 months later. I'm still somewhat bewildered by the whole turn of events and yet another addition to my already extensive resume.

We are just a year away from the Primary Elections, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014, (my 68<sup>th</sup> birthday) for the major State offices, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, and Insurance Commissioner; plus State and Federal Representatives, plus the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Pat Roberts. It is time to get

serious, once again, about the election process. The General Election will be November 4, 2014.

Toward that end, Marge Mintun and I have put together a tentative list of Lunch & Learn subjects for Fall of 2013 through the Spring of 2014. The Board has also agreed to move those informative meetings to Thursday from the traditional Tuesday. Confirmation of Lunch & Learn and other activities of the League will primarily be carried out through email, our Facebook page and our now-being-revised website.

In the next Board of Directors meeting, I hope we can come up with some new ways to further the basic mission of the League, interest citizens in the election process, increase voter registration, encourage voters to become well informed about issues and candidates, and ultimately increase the number of voters who actually turn out. Our last

local elections were especially dismal with only 12.4 percent of Saline County registered voters making the effort to vote. One township precinct had no voters! We, the people, have to do better. If you have ideas for this coming year, please let your friends on the Board know, or come to the board meeting and share your ideas directly. The next Board Meetings are Tuesday, August 13 and September 10, at 5:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church, Salina, 308 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

My only idea at this point is to try to have some community showings of the movie Iron Jawed Angels, which dramatically demonstrates how vital the right to vote used to be considered, and why the election process deserves better participation.

Your ideas, assistance and participation will be appreciated.

Abner Perney, President

### CALENDAR



- AUG.**
- 13 Board meeting
- 26 Fall Issues Forum:  
Death Penalty
- SEP.**
- 10 Board meeting
- 12 Lunch & Learn, Sheriff  
Kochanowski
- OCT.**
- 8 Board meeting
- 10 Lunch & Learn, City  
Growth & Sustainability
- NOV.**
- 12 Board meeting
- 14 Lunch & Learn, Salina  
KU Med Ctr & New doctors

### HOW TO CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

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Topeka phone: 785-296-7696

## KANSAS DEATH PENALTY: Fact & Figures

[As discussed on Page 1, Kristin Bollig will present her expertise on the Death Penalty in Kansas at the Fall Issues Forum, August 19. Here is information from her organization, The Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty.]

Kansas already has in place an alternative to the death penalty, a sentence of life without parole. This severe sentence keeps Kansans safe from violent criminals without risking the harmful effects of the death penalty.

Since reinstating the death penalty in 1994, Kansas has sentenced thirteen individuals to death. There are currently eight individuals facing the death penalty, and no executions have taken place since 1965.

### The Death Penalty Risks Executing an Innocent Person

- Since 1973, over 140 persons wrongfully convicted and sentenced to death have been exonerated nationwide.
- DNA helped exonerate some individuals, but such evidence is not always available in murder cases.
- The same mistakes occur in Kansas. Though Kansas does not have a death row exoneration, Eddie James Lowery and Joe Jones are two examples of serious felony exonerations. They spent a combined twenty-eight years serving sentences for crimes they did not commit.

### The Death Penalty Costs More than Life Without Parole

- States with the death penalty, including Kansas, find that death penalty cases cost taxpayers much more than non-death penalty cases. A large portion of the extra cost is incurred at the initial trial phase.

- A 2009 study by the Kansas Judicial Council Death Penalty Advisory Committee found that Kansas would have real cost savings by repealing the death penalty. Capital cases can be up to 70 percent more expensive.



### The Death Penalty Does Not Deter Violent Crime

- A 2009 Death Penalty Information Center survey of 500 police chiefs ranked the use of the death penalty LAST among tools to reduce violent crime and the LEAST efficient use of taxpayer money.
- The death penalty diverts scarce resources from proven crime prevention methods, such as hiring more police officers and corrections staff.

### The Death Penalty is Applied Inconsistently

- The likelihood of a person receiving a death sentence varies depending on where they live, their economic status, their gender, and their racial/ethnic background.
- In Kansas, half of the death sentences since 1994 were in Sedgwick County. A similar crime committed elsewhere in the state is less likely to receive a death sentence.

### The Death Penalty Fails Victims' Families

- The death penalty ignores the real needs of victims' families, diverting essential resources from critical services like grief counseling and support.
- Death penalty trials and appeals can last over a decade. Non-death penalty cases are usually settled at the initial trial, and a life without parole sentence begins as soon as the victim's family leaves the courtroom.

Kristin Bollig can be reached at [kristin@ksabolition.org](mailto:kristin@ksabolition.org) or (785) 235-0214.

## LUNCH & LEARN dates changing to SECOND THURSDAYS

This year's Lunch & Learn committee presents an all-star line up of programs. In a change from the past, programs will take place on the **second Thursday** of the month. Starting time is 12:15pm (as usual) in the Salina Public Library Prescott Room.

Marge Mintun and Abner Perney met in mid-July to set the topics (several are still tentative). Mark your calendar for these events!

**SEPTEMBER 12:** Sheriff Glen Kochanowski—current events in

his office.

**OCTOBER 10:** Rod Franz or Jason Gage—growth and sustainability for the City of Salina.

**NOVEMBER 14:** Physician Recruiting and KU Med Center-Salina update.

**JANUARY 9:** The Fair Board—history and future plans.

**FEBRUARY 13:** City-County Consolidation elsewhere in Kansas.

**MARCH 13:** Current events in Saline County.

## Salina League Remembers JANET JUHNKE

Janet Juhnke was secretary of the Salina League of Women Voters board of directors when she died on January 23 of this year after an eleven year battle with cancer—specifically, metastatic renal cell carcinoma. In honor of her wise and steadfast service to the League—among her many worthwhile activities—the board has given a \$50 memorial to Kansas Wesleyan University where Janet taught English for over thirty years, serving as head of the English Department and in many other capacities.

Kansas Governor Bill Graves (a Republican) appointed Janet to the Kansas Humanities Council board in 1982, and Governor Kathleen Sebelius (a Democrat) appointed her to the Supreme Court Nominating Commission in 2004. She was a founding and active member of the Salina Menonite Church, had played violin in the Salina Symphony, sung in the Salina Chorale, and served on the Salina Community Theatre board and on their play reading committee. At the time of her death, she was president of Salina's Current Literature Book Club.

She and her husband, Ted Hale, worked through the organization called RESULTS in Salina and in Washington, DC, to create the political will to end hunger and the worst aspects of poverty in America.

The excellent health care Janet received in Salina over the years allowed her, right up to her time of death, to live a near normal life—if constant service, deep wisdom and tireless caring could be considered “normal.”

The Salina League was fortunate to share in the life of Janet Juhnke. Husband Ted Hale is now a League member and remains an active participant in the Salina community.

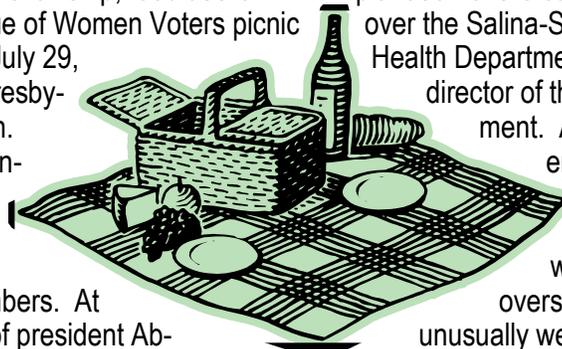
### VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

On September 24, join hundreds of other Leagues in National Voter Registration Day. Salina LWV past president Lori Trow is planning for activities in Salina around that day. Be sure to visit the members' section of the national League of Women Voters website ([www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)) for a variety

## TWENTY ATTEND LWV PICNIC!

It was fun, fellowship, food at the Salina League of Women Voters picnic on Sunday, July 29, at Sunrise Presbyterian Church.

Several non-members attended along with League members. At the request of president Abner Perney, guest Yvonne Gibbons gave a spontaneous and thorough ex-



planation of the current controversy over the Salina-Saline County Health Department. Gibbons is director of the Health Department. A lively discussion ensued.

The potluck was plentiful with abundant leftovers. This summer's unusually wet weather kept the group inside the church's climate-controlled multipurpose room.

of tools, templates and resources to help your League do this important work.

### NEW WEBSITE

#### Same Address

Have you looked at the Salina League's website lately? It has the same address: [www.lwvsalina.org](http://www.lwvsalina.org), but the appearance of the site is new. Thanks to lots of work and attention by past president Lori Trow, Salina's new League of Women Voters website has a look similar to other League web pages around the country.

Take a look at it—see what you think.

The League's past website was produced by webmaster Don Shorock, a retired social studies teacher in Great Bend who designed useful and affordable websites for many not-for-profit organizations, musicians and businesses. Since Don died a couple of years ago, updating the website has been challenging even with some help from his son Tom in Lawrence.

We now have a website we can maintain ourselves, with tech support from League members in California. Thank you, Lori!

### LWVK Member Development

On July 27, 2013, Lori Trow attended the State LWV Membership and Leadership Development sustainability workshop. MLD is a partnership among all levels of Leagues focusing on recruiting members, engaging members, developing leaders, and building financial sustainability.

The MLD program was started in 2005. There are 25 Shur Fellows (a national grant program) and over 170 State Coaches; by the end of 2013 all 50 states will be participating.

Since this program started, there has been an 8.6% growth of LWV members in Kansas and .3% growth overall nationally.

Sustainability was added to the MLD program as a natural evolution of the MLD project. We need to get and keep members, but we also need to have the ability to support our programs.

There are 6 key questions to fundraising.

1. Why should we raise money?
2. Why should someone give us money?
3. Whom should we ask?
4. How should we ask?
5. When should we ask?
6. What should we do next?

Additionally, If we had the money what would we do with it? How could having more money in our local League sustain us and help us to fulfill our mission as the LWV? How much money do we need to do this? These are the questions the MLD program seeks to answer in upcoming months. Lori welcomes your input.

### VOTER REGISTRATION



## SALINA LWV PRESENT AT FIRST GAY PRIDE CELEBRATION, JUNE 29

*[The first part of this article includes research by League member David Norlin.]*

When the Salina League of Women Voters learned that the North Central Kansas Equality Coalition was planning a “gay pride” event on June 29, the board began investigating the League’s national position on the topics of sexual orientation and gender identity.

We found that “equality of opportunity” has long been an issue of great importance to the League of Women Voters. The League’s early focus on gender equality expanded to include racial equality and other dividing lines such as religion and age. As early as the 1990s, the League included sexual orientation among the groups to which equality should apply.

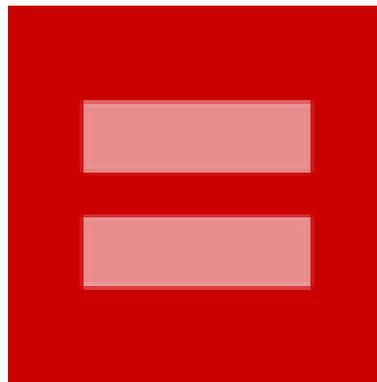
In 1992, the LWV added sexual orientation to its national position statement on “equality of opportunity.” That year, the League began calling for the extension of civil rights laws, which already covered race, color, gender, religion, age and disability. In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress (1999 through 2001), the national LWV supported federal legislation targeting hate crimes against homosexuals and others. In 2004 and 2006, the League opposed the “Federal Marriage Amendment,” which would enshrine discrimination in the United States Constitution by limiting fundamental protections such as health care benefits for same-sex partners. At the LWV convention in 2010, the national membership approved new language to the “Equality of Opportunity” position to make the rights of same-sex couples equal to those of heterosexual couples.

With all this national information in hand, the board of the Salina League

decided—after this year’s June board meeting—to host a table at the Gay Pride event. A different LWV member staffed the table for each hour of the event, greeting the hundreds of attendees and raising the visibility of the Salina League.

Thanks to each member who sat at the table or attended the event. The men and women of the League support the work of the NCKEC in their efforts to bring equal opportunity to all persons.

One member at the table was former Salina music teacher, Colleen Jewell. She shares her impressions below.



### A Personal Reflection on Salina’s Gay Pride Day, June 29

Salina’s premiere Gay Pride event on June 29, 2013, was a terrific experience for me. Everyone was so polite and pleasant. The day was peaceful in every sense of the word. A feeling of happy inclusiveness affected all of us.

The entertainment was well done and very much appreciated. People of all ages made up the audience, from

babies to grandparents, because the day was family friendly.

LWV Salina had a table representing our membership. Different members each took a one-hour shift, offering information about the League and helping with voter registration. Our table was always busy, and we received many interested comments.

The entire event involved many volunteers and required a tremendous amount of organizing, planning, and setting-up. The planning committee is to be congratulated on a job well done. All of Salina should be proud.

A few days after Gay Pride Day, I happened to see one of the organizers, Scott Graybeal, having lunch.

He told me they had prepared for an attendance of 200 but more than twice that number showed up—a total of 466 people! He was thrilled and eager to get right to work for next year. In fact, the North Central Kansas Equality Coalition was meeting that very evening to plan for next year!

He said they are also scheduling a second annual “Glitter Gala” in October. Last year’s gala was an on-stage variety show featuring local talent, especially doing Broadway show tunes and other numbers expressing open-mindedness and equality—an excellent show.

If you missed either the Glitter Gala or the Gay Pride event, you now have another chance in the coming year to see the great amount of exceptional talent we have in Salina.

I hope to see you there!

Colleen Jewell

## SALINA LWV STUDIED CITY-COUNTY CONSOLIDATION 2005-2007

From 2005 to 2007, the Salina League of Women Voters studied the possibility of consolidating the City of Salina government with the Saline County government.

In light of the current Salina-Saline County Health Department impasse and other city-county squabbles, that issue has returned to public discussion.

The League did not reach a conclusion as to the advisability of consolidation. The League's position was for the city and county to study the issue together. In the end, the city commission was interested in participating in such a study. The county commission was not.

At that time, Wyandotte County and its largest city, Kansas City, Kansas, had already consolidated their governments. Since that time, Tribune and Greeley County in western Kansas have consolidated.

Topeka and Shawnee County voted on the issue of consolidation. A majority of the county residents voted in favor of consolidation.

However, Kansas law requires that, to enact consolidation, a majority of the *rural residents* as well as a majority of the *urban residents* of a county must vote in favor of the change. This is called the DUAL MAJORITY rule.

A majority of the rural residents of Shawnee County who voted on the issue opposed consolidation—so Shawnee County and Topeka remain separate entities.

HERE IS A SUMMARY that was presented in Salina to a joint meeting of the 2007 City and County Commissions.

In 2005, the Salina LWV voted to study the issue of consolidation of city and county governments.

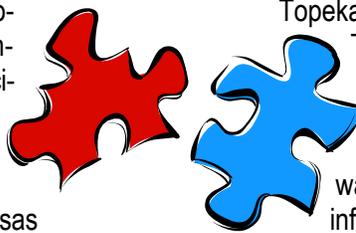
The committee was made up of both rural and urban residents of the county.

The question to be studied was: Should the city of Salina and Saline

County consolidate their governments?

How was the study conducted? The Salina LWV did the following:

- surveyed city & county staff for their opinions on and impressions of consolidation – whether functional or total consolidation.
- obtained lists of the city and county employees to compare them.
- investigated where, in Kansas and elsewhere, consolidation has been done or considered - like WY Co./KCK, SH Co./Topeka, Greeley Co./



Tribune, also Albuquerque, NM, and Miami/Dade County, FL. There was quite a bit more information than we

were able to get through in the time we had.

- brought in speakers: Two staff members from the League of Kansas Municipalities (Don Moler and their attorney); the former state senator from Hutchinson, Dave Kerr; director of the Kansas Association of Counties (Randall Allen); all of whom spoke positively about the potential for consolidation in the right situations.
- decided that there was little use in doing a multi-year study on the topic if there was no cooperation by citizens throughout the county. Just the mention of the word "consolidation" often generated hostility, even though few people seemed to have any real concept of what such a move might mean. Somehow the League had become suspect, especially among rural residents and county staff, simply because of studying the consolidation issue. This led to the joint task force idea so that representatives of all parts of the rural and urban communities could study the issue objectively and report back to the community on their findings.
- talked to the Chamber of Commerce

and former city manager about the process used for the successful "Goals for Salina" planning process in the 1990s.

Some have said we should just ignore the issue until the legislature changes the dual majority law. But studying the issue is going to take considerable time, and by the time the task force completes its job, the law may be changed, or the task force, city and county may decide it's worth trying to get the law changed, or rural residents may become convinced consolidation is worth doing.

### **SALINA LWV's POSITION on City /County Consolidation**

The LWV of Salina supports:

1. Establishment of a joint commission/task force from the city and the county to:
  - a) look at the consolidation issue,
  - b) explore its advantages and disadvantages, and
  - c) bring a recommendation before the citizens.
2. A balance of representation on the commission/task force among all facets of the community, including but not limited to the following:
  - a) Geography (city/county, urban/rural).
  - b) Genders.
  - c) Socio/economic levels.
  - d) Public, private, and non-profit sectors.
  - e) Races and ethnicities.
  - f) Disabilities.
  - g) Age groups.
3. Completion of the work of the commission/task force within 12 months.

The LWV of Salina recommends that the commission/task force:

1. Listen to all sides and foster respect among all participants.
2. Gather input (information, opinions, recommendations) from all segments of

*(Continued on page 7)*

## LIBRARY BOARD OBSERVER REPORT

*[Taken from Observer Mike Wilson's May, June and July 2013 reports.]*

Friends of the Library (FOL) is purchasing yard signs for patrons who reach a reading goal. FOL gave a \$3,000 scholarship to a staff member pursuing a master's degree online. The May book sale earned \$614.

Ceiling light fixtures with obsolete T-12 lamps will be replaced with more efficient T-8 lamps: 60 fixtures in the basement, 292 in the upper floor. LED lamps are available but very expensive. New lights will be added to the exterior of the building. A board member arranged to have the bulbs donated by Philips Lighting.

Late fees for checking out e-readers will be \$3 per day.

After considerable discussion, the Employee Appearance Policy was adopted, to

be reviewed yearly. The policy reads in part "Library staff should always have a business-casual or better appearance at work. Our public image is important in our goals of connecting with people, and employees are a vital part of the library image. Nametags are required." The policy goes on to list examples of appropriate business-casual dress.

The new state Concealed Carry law, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, mandates that public buildings except schools and the state capitol building allow concealed carry permit holders to enter with guns. "No guns" signs must be removed. An organization can opt out and display a no gun sign but each entrance must have a metal detector and a security person to check permits. As a practical and financial matter, this means all entrances except one would be closed. Board members agreed that the library would remove the signs.

The owner of the small dilapidated house at 304 W. Elm Street wants to sell for \$35,000. The library might buy and demolish it and use the lot for additional parking.

As of July 1, the fiscal year is 50% complete with 92.53% of income received. No capital improvement funds have been spent and only 8.66% of the contingency fund. June water bill was unusually high due to excessive watering of grass. The situation has been corrected. The Prescott Memorial Fund contains about \$58,000 in three accounts. This will be reviewed—the money may be placed in different accounts. The Greater Salina Community Foundation account has about \$50,000.

2014 Proposed Budget: The library mill levy for 2013 was 5.452 and the proposed value for 2014 is 5.763. The total general fund budget for '13 is \$2,254,307; proposed amount for '14 is \$2,300,127. Proposed salary expenditures for '14 are \$1,444,127 a slight decrease from '13. About \$150,000 will be carried over to the '14 capital improvement fund, for a total of \$350,000. The air conditioning system needs significant work soon. Security budget for '14 is \$64,000 for salaries. The

guards are contract employees working for a private company. Unemployment insurance premium for '14 will be \$5,198, up over \$3700 from '13 due to usage of this fund by former employees. The budget was approved for publication in the Salina Journal with a public hearing to be held at the August meeting.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES: For April: Tech Center reservations: 4,305; visitors to the library: 25,744; security incidents: 6; meeting room usage: 398; and 53 CLASS sessions with 647 participants.

For May: Tech Center reservations: 4,326; visitors to the library: 26,363; security incidents: 11; meeting room usage: 338; and 29 CLASS sessions with 365 participants.

For June (the busiest month): Tech Center reservations: 4,498; wireless users (primarily lap top computers): 1,234; visitors to the library: 25,929; security incidents: 4; meeting room usage: 302; and 9 CLASS sessions with 124 participants.

The City Neighborhood Revitalization Program which provides a tax credit to an owner to improve his or her property has been in existence for years and it is being extended to properties up to I – 70. Since this will be a tax credit, all taxing entities must approve of it. Approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS: A family will open Jon's Delights in the south lobby on Sunday afternoons with hours to be expanded in the fall. Food for Fines was collected in June and July. Artist Curt Krob built a sculpture from the almost 3000 cans of food. More than 326 adults enrolled in the summer reading program. Youth Services summer reading program enrollment is 120 babies, 1,833 children and 420 teenagers. A new Kansas law requires that all patron computers be filtered. Adults can request that the filter be disabled. Youth Services Department computers have been filtered since 1997. At the Smoky Hill River Festival library, staff caught 372 people reading, and each became eligible for a prize. In the future, youth may be able to reduce their fine debts by reading.

### CITY-COUNTY CONSOLIDATION (cont.)

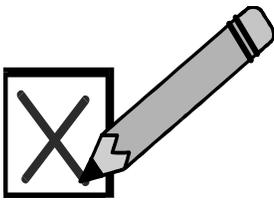
*(Continued from page 6)*

the city-county community, by:

- a) Holding public meetings across the county.
- b) Surveying citizens using various formats, such as printed materials, electronic media and telephone.
3. Gather input from outside the county related to consolidation.
4. Examine the issues of consolidation, including but not limited to:
  - a) The structure of a unified government.
  - b) The role of elected officials in such a government.
  - c) Land use and zoning rules.
  - d) Property tax issues.
  - e) Allocation of existing city and county debt.
  - f) Inclusion of other local governmental units.
  - g) Effects on employees and job classifications.
  - h) Overall economic impact of consolidation.

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**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**.