



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Manhattan/Riley County

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President's Message *Opportunities for Engagement*

By Karen Mayse

The League has several informative meetings, forums and initiatives on the horizon that every member should want to participate in.

Our next Lunch With League, **on Feb. 10**, noon to 1 p.m. at the Manhattan Public Library Auditorium, is devoted to learning about Flint Hills Community Radio, from how it is being organized to why people with no broadcast experience, including you, might want to take part in bringing this station to reality. Christopher Renner and David McFarland will be featured speakers. **On Feb. 24** at our Brown Bag Lunch, noon to 1 p.m. at the Riley County Office Building, we will learn more about Riley County growth planning. The League has been represented by Linda Morse at the Vision 2025 planning meetings, and now this group is presenting its recommendations to the County Commission. Come to this lunch to learn what may be in store for future county growth.

The LWVUS has taken a strong position on global warming, so with that in mind, the LWV MRC has agreed to co-sponsor a public forum about energy production in Kansas. The forum, *A Comprehensive Energy Plan for Kansas: Meeting Future Needs without CO2*, will be on **Saturday, Feb. 7**, 1:30 p.m. at the Manhattan Public Library. The forum will feature the following speakers: Scott Allergucci, James Roberts - [Great Plains Alliance for Clean Energy](#), and Stephanie Cole, [Kansas Sierra Club](#). This forum will look at some of the unanswered questions and questionable claims about the proposed Sunflower Electric Corporation expansion and will provide participants an opportunity to respond.

Our finance drive kicks off on **February 1**.

The League depends on and appreciates the support of our members and friends. We simply can't present forums, bring in speakers, and be a non-partisan source for information in the community without financial support. Membership dues alone are not enough to have a functioning organization. Please be generous with your contribution and thank you in advance for your support!

On **March 8**, the League is sponsoring a candidates forum for City Commission candidates, starting at 3 p.m., at the Denison Avenue Fire Station. This will be your opportunity to hear the candidates' views and vision for Manhattan. We will publish information about USD 383 School Board candidates on the League web site prior to the election.

Thanks to LWV MRC member Jean Lee, our local League recently started a blog where you will find reporting about state and local issues. Jean is also a member of the LWVK board, which makes her the perfect person to help us start our blog. We hope to spotlight information about issues that the local and state Leagues are following, either because we already have positions on them or because are studying them to develop a position. Visit our blog at www.lwvmanhattanks.blogspot.com. The League board also recently authorized starting a page on Facebook. Further information about how to find us on Facebook will be forthcoming.

Our Stella Harris Scholarship committee is in the process of awarding our scholarship to a non-traditional returning student. The committee is under the excellent leadership of

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President's Message, continued...

Barbara Rees, Kristan Corwin and Marjory Mortvedt. Please encourage people you know who might be eligible for this scholarship to apply. For more details, see www.ksu.edu/adult/scholarships.

Preparations are underway for our Annual Meeting, which will be on **April 14**, 6 to 9 p.m., at the Golden Wok in the Village Plaza shopping center's restaurant

row, 3003 Anderson Ave. On behalf of the board, I wish to thank you if you are serving on one of the committees, or otherwise helping, to organize this meeting. Our Annual Meeting is always a membership highlight for the year, so save this date on your calendar so you don't miss out on a great evening of League networking.

Community Forum

A Comprehensive Energy Plan for Kansas

Overview:

During the 2008 Legislative session, Sunflower Electric tried repeatedly to have their corporate needs become an energy plan for the State of Kansas. They failed in their efforts.

This year instead of one all inclusive bill, their strategy is to use their allies in the Kansas legislature to achieve their goals through over 200 proposed legislative bills that would in addition to giving them the building permits they want for two coal-fired power plants in southwest Kansas, would also gut the Kansas Department of Health and Environment from having regulatory power over clean air standards in the state.

Given the recent scientific studies showing that continued dependence on carbon-based fuels is leading the planet towards further environment degradation and increasing the health risks to future generations, one has to ask why is the Kansas legislature is so intent on supporting coal?

This forum will look at some of the unanswered questions and questionable claims about the proposed Sunflower Electric Corporation expansion and will provide participants an opportunity to respond to this threat to their health and the health of the planet.

Featured Speakers:

Scott Allegrucci, James Roberts - Great Plains Alliance for Clean Energy, and Stephanie Cole, Kansas Sierra Club.

Sponsors:

Flint Hills Chapter of the Sierra Club; K-State Students for Environmental Action; Manhattan/Riley County League of Women Voters; and the Manhattan Alliance for Peace and Justice.

Background information:

Interested individuals might also want to listen to the Community Bridge show for 22 January which featured Allegrucci and Roberts. It is available as a downloadable podcast or as streaming audio under "podcasts" (scroll down on the right hand side of the webpage) at: <http://communitybridge.blogspot.com>.

Download GPACE's *10 Questions for Sunflower Supporters* at: <http://128.121.184.101/PDFs/ProtectingWhat%27sOurs-BenefitingOurHealth&Environment.pdf>

Stella Harriss Scholarship

The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a \$500 Stella Harriss Scholarship for the fall semester 2009. This scholarship is designed for non-traditional K-State male or female students who meet at least one of the following criteria: is 25 years of age or older, is married or a parent, is returning to school after an absence of three or more years or is a veteran. Applications are due March 15 and can be downloaded at www.ksu.edu/adult/scholarships. For more information contact the Office of Non-traditional Student Services, 101 Holton Hall, 785-532-6434 or call League President Karen Mayse at 785-776-1637.

Observer Reports:

Riley County Law Board, January 20, 2009

Bob Kruh, Observer

Present: Hatesohl, Johnson, Kearns, Phillips, Snead, Urban, Wilkerson

To begin the new year all members were sworn in by Judge Wilson, following which the chairmanship was passed from Kearns to Snead. Johnson was named as vice chair.

RCPD Director Schoen commented on practices for dealing with the recent smoking ban, noting that police have been counseling with all bar owners and that education, rather than aggressive enforcement, will be the preferred approach.

The board heard a report that RCPD paid about \$3,500 in December for transporting mentally ill individuals to Osawatomic. The question remains as to how to cover this cost, especially for those who are under court order but who are not involved in criminal events. Johnson reported that the county commission is exploring what statutory requirements apply.

Captain Grubb reported that police bookings have been

on the rise, with 4,164 in 2008 as compared to 3,749 in 2007. Average daily inmate counts continue to increase, having risen from a historic level of about 45 to over 80 in 2008. For January 2009 the count is over 100, with the prospect of a trend that continues upward. Jail stays average 67 days.

The increased jail census has major financial implications for increased staffing costs as well as the expense of medical care. Given the number of inmates with mental problems, the cost of psychotropic drugs is significant, with over \$50,000 spent last year. Handling more prisoners may eventually require a choice between spending more on staff overtime or on out-placing prisoners to other jurisdictions.

Also, relative to the funding base, the board recognizes that, increasingly, the state will take actions that transfer their costs to the counties.

Finally, the board took note of County Commissioner McCulloh's proposal that the city and county, including the RCPD, cooperate in a comprehensive purchase plan to create savings for each.

Riley County Commission

Jan Kruh, Julie Merklin, Lyndal Nyberg, Joan Strickler, Observers.

December 22 – The commission made appointments to the museum, fair, and armed forces memorial boards.

Treasurer King reported on increased vehicle tag fees, with \$39 for most cars and \$49 for pickups.

Appraiser Todd reported that the local residential market is not experiencing the negative national trend and that the average sale price of houses has increased. Additionally, there has been no increase in foreclosures.

December 29 – No items related to League positions/interests.

January 5 – Emergency Services Director Collins reported on replacement of fire equipment items, including vehicles.

County Clerk Vargo noted that voter registration for the city and school elections will close on February 16.

Commissioner Johnson presented a plaque to Bob Newsome for his 49 years of service to the county, and

he received the thanks of various county staff members for the help he had given them.

January 8 – Appraiser Jill Evans made a presentation on residential appraisals, noting that the state of Kansas requires every parcel in each county to be physically reviewed every six years.

Chamber of Commerce president Lyle Butler reported that several manufacturers in our area have laid off employees and that they are receiving help in finding other jobs. He also mentioned that there will be several new businesses coming to Manhattan with high-level salaries.

Treasurer Eileen King described a decrease in the county's investment income, a result of the economic downturn.

January 12 – Newly elected officials were sworn in. Commissioner Johnson administered the oath to Judge Paul Miller, who administered the oath to the other officials: Karen McCulloh, commissioner;

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County Commission Continued...

Debra Register, register of deeds; Al Johnson, commissioner; Rich Vargo, clerk; Barry Wilkerson, attorney; and Sheila Hochhauser, magistrate judge. Johnson was elected as commission chair and Kearns as vice chair.

Commissioners made their own committee assignments, with McCulloh taking the positions vacated by Newsome. She was also named to the state committee studying changes in election procedures.

Clerk Vargo gave budget and expenditure reports, and GIS Coordinator Cowan presented an update on staff activities.

Reporting in the press conference were Extension Agents Gregg Eyestone and Greg McClure, ATA Director Anne Smith, and Assistant Counselor Craig Cox. Clerk Vargo noted that the filing deadline for the April 7 election is January 27 and that the voter registration deadline is February 16. He also explained that new rules will likely remove the need for a primary.

Public Works Director Hobson reported on current projects, following which there was an executive session to discuss property acquisition.

January 15 – The commissioners and Technology Director Nall discussed ways to broadcast commission meetings on the Internet and cable TV.

Emergency Management Director Pat Collins gave a report on the 465 runs made in 2008 by County Fire

District #1. These runs responded to fires, hazardous conditions, needed assistance to other fire departments, rescues, and false calls. Grass fires (52) were down, and most calls were for emergency medical services (264).

The 2010 census was discussed, particularly noting the importance of getting a complete count of county citizens, with one possibility being the formation of a "complete count committee".

Counselor Holeman and the commission discussed various bills that will be before the legislature this term, including consolidating court services and determining who will pay for court-ordered psychological evaluations.

January 22 – Counselor Clancy Holeman told of Senator Reitz' report on a bill providing for optional city-county consolidation. He also explained the need for clarifying the county's representation on the state committee studying election procedures.

Treasurer Eileen King gave an estimate of what effects state funding cuts might have on the county's budget, and commissioners agreed that major projects would not be likely in the near future.

Information Director Nall reported on projects and tasks accomplished in 2008, including new installations, satellite electronic voting at KSU, and the near elimination of spam in county E-mail. The commission approved changing the name of Nall's department from Information Systems to Information Technology.

City Commission

January 6 – All Commissioners Present
During discussion on the consent agenda, Commissioner Strawn asked the Mayor to reconsider his appointment of only Commissioners to the Riley County Law Board. He pointed out that the statute governing Law Board appointments was developed to ensure citizen oversight and not political oversight. He said that appointing only Commissioners is also at odds with the city's Code of Ethics policy for transparency in government. Commissioners Sherow, Snead and Phillips voiced support for appointing Commissioners to the Law Board. Their support was based on the Commissioners' responsibility for oversight of funding law enforcement, which is a significant portion of the city budget, and the

importance of monitoring this critical public service. Commissioner Snead stated that since the Riley County Law Board meetings are open to the public, they meet the principles of transparency. Mayor Hatesohl said Law Board appointments could be pulled off the agenda and he would ask members of the public and the Commission to submit names of Manhattan residents who could serve on the Law Board.

January 20 – All Commissioners Present
Mayor Hatesohl appointed Connie Casper to a two-year, at-large term on the Riley County Law Board. Her term will expire December 31, 2010. The Mayor

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City Commission, continued...

also reappointed himself and Commissioner Bruce Snead. Both of their terms will expire December 31, 2010. Commissioners unanimously approved this consent agenda item. During public comments, League President Karen Mayse thanked the Mayor for appointing a non-elected citizen to the Law Board.

January 27 – All Commissioners Present

This special meeting was a work session exploring a projection for city finances. Finance Director Bernie Hayden told Commissioners to expect difficult budget decisions for the 2010 budget in light of declining bond and interest revenue as well as proposed cuts in the state budget that would also decrease city revenue.

USD 383 School Board**Kathy Dzewaltowski, Observer****December 18, 2008**

The Board members spoke via speaker phone to representatives of the Salina and Auburn-Washburn school districts about their construction projects and how they chose to manage the projects.

During the regular meeting the board approved 7-0 the creation of the “Citizen Facility Care Committee.” The committee will consist of 15 “at-large” members, will help oversee construction projects, and will also provide recommendations for capital outlay projects.

Board members discussed at length the pros and cons of using a “lead architect” to help the board package bids and oversee construction projects. Board members disagreed as to whether they considered it to be a conflict of interest for the “lead architect’s” firm to also bid on and design smaller portions of the project. Administration was directed to put together a description of responsibilities for a “lead architect.”

January 7, 2009

The Board discussed construction project planning and two plans for management of the projects:

program management or using a “lead architect” with a project manager. Board members were not in agreement as to which route to pursue.

Tiffany Powell, Diversity Coordinator, presented her annual report. Ms. Powell reported that reading and math scores for minority students have improved but there is still a gap between them and other students.

Board members continued the construction planning discussion. The board was split with what they considered to be a conflict of interest for a “lead architect,” with some board members believing that the “lead architect” should be independent and should not be bidding on any district construction projects. A motion for “request for qualifications” for a “lead architect” and a project manager, both of whom would be allowed to bid on district projects, failed by a vote of 3-4. A motion for “request for qualifications” for a lead architect and a project manager and a separate “request for qualifications” for a program manager, with none of them being allowed to bid on district projects, was approved by a vote of 5-2.

**League of Women Voters US:
Studies and Initiatives****LWVUS National Popular Vote Compact
Study Materials Are Online**

All NPV Compact Study documents are available on the LWVUS Web site at www.lwv.org/npv. Materials include the Consensus Response Form, full length and Voter-ready condensed Background, Pro, and Con articles, the Consensus Questions, the text of the NPV Compact, a Resource List and the Leader’s Guide. League members may wish to review these materials for future discussion.

**LWVEF to Co-Sponsor Sunshine Week
Event**

On Friday, March 20 from 1 - 2:30 PM (ET), the LWVEF will co-host the 4th Annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue. The event, “Opening Doors: Finding the Keys to Open Government,” will be held at the Center for American Progress in Washington, DC, and available via webcast. It will feature panels of experts from inside and outside government, who will discuss federal openness policies and opportunities for people to use government information to make a difference in their communities. For more information, visit www.openthegovernment.org

Become a Listener-Member

Flint Hills Community Radio is your community radio. We depend on member support to pay our bills and provide programming.

Our locally produced music and public affairs programming will keep you in touch with what's going on in your community.

The nationally produced programs we will air are your window to the world. Whether it's news, public affairs, features, or music, you get an intimate and in-depth picture of other places and other cultures.

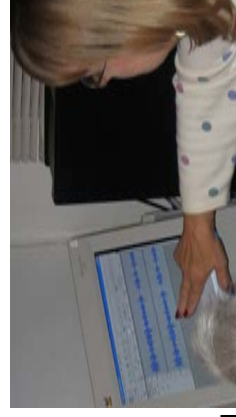
You can usually find a way to listen to the radio, anytime, anyplace. Just like any other service you value, you've got to help pay for it. Unlike other services, you get to name your price.

Pick a membership level that fits your budget.

Student	\$20 per year
Supporter	\$30 per year
Appreciation Level \$60	(\$5.00 per month)
Manager's Level \$120	(\$10.00 per month)
Transmitter Level \$180	(\$15.00 per month)
Leaders' Circle \$240	(\$20.00 per month)
The Dollar a Day Club \$365	(\$30.00 per month)
The Antenna Club \$480	(\$40.00 per month)
The Producers Circle \$960	(\$80.00 per month)

Citizen Journalism

Flint Hills Community Radio will be a volunteer-operated radio station. As such, we are working to develop a corps of citizen journalists from diverse age/ethnic groups who will carry out in-depth reporting and produce audio and print material that reports the news of our communities as well as community issues and cultural events. All volunteers will be trained before they are allowed on air. The following courses are offered



through UFM Community Learning Center at no charge and are open to any interested volunteer.

INTRO TO CITIZEN JOURNALISM

- focuses on developing a news story, preparing a news program, script writing, journalism ethics, different writing formats for print, web, and radio stories, developing a "beat," etc. Participants will have weekly assignments that require reading and writing.

SOUND, RECORDING AND PRODUCTION

- various courses focusing on the technical side of producing a segment for broadcast, how to interview using a recorder, editing and sound effects.

REGULATIONS AND STUDIO EQUIPMENT

- covers Federal Communication Commission regulations, station policy and procedures, and working studio equipment.

KONZ 90.9 FM Flint Hills Community Radio

Local public radio for Geary, Pottawatomie, Riley, and Wabaunsee Counties

Radio is about to change in the Flint Hills!

In October '08 UFM Community Learning Center was awarded a license by the Federal Communications Commission for a new full-powered public radio station.

The new station will use a "community radio" model that focuses on local programming and will be operated by volunteers like yourself.

Flint Hills Community Radio is a non-commercial, listener-sponsored, community radio station.

A wide spectrum of volunteers and a small paid staff will offer programming and ancillary services that will:

- provide multiple forums for the discussion of public issues and the expansion of musical and cultural experiences, with the aim of promoting deeper and wider community and interpersonal dialogues, fostering alternative and non-traditional educational experiences, and offering unduplicated entertainment programming;
- promote community access to the airwaves for sharing news, information, cultural and musical programming, to broaden the meaning of "community" and to nurture artistic expression;
- challenge the intellectual and cultural assumptions of our listeners through diverse, stimulating, and unique programming;
- keep our audience's needs paramount, with special concern for groups that are under-represented by other media.

About FHCR...

The new radio station is the result of a diverse group of people coming together and saying: "Radio can be better." Tired of the negativity and lack of local news and information, local community members have been working since 2005 to bring a change to local radio.

In 2007, the FCC announced that it would accept applications for new, full-power, non-commercial/educational FM stations. A group of community organizations - the Campaign for Nonviolence, Flint Hills Human Rights Project, Riley County Senior Services Center, Manhattan/Riley County League of Women Voters, Manhattan Mennonite Church, Manhattan Alliance for Peace and Justice, and UFM Community Learning Center - came together to submit the application and signed onto the development of the station.

The station welcomes and needs creative people to develop and sustain the station. Whether your interest lies in music, public affairs, human interests, or working behind the scenes FHCR welcomes you.

Contact us today at 785-539-8763 or via e-mail at: KONZFM@tryufm.org

**Visit our website at:
<http://www.KONZFM.org>**

KONZ 90.9 - Flint Hills Community Radio Membership Form

/ YES! I want to become a supporter of KONZ - Flint Hills Community Radio. I want to join at the membership level. Enclosed is my payment for the entire amount I'll send monthly contributions. Make checks payable to: "UFM;" please write "KONZ 90.9" in the memo line. For credit card transactions please provide the following information:

Type of credit card: _____; Number on Card: _____;

Expiration Date: _____; Name as it appears on card: _____;

Membership contributions are tax deductible. Please print clearly. Return to: Flint Hills Community Radio, 1221 Thurston, Manhattan, KS 66502

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

FHCR would like to reduce paper waste and postage costs by sending official member correspondence and newsletters via e-mail as PDF attachments. If you would like to receive correspondence in this fashion please provide us with your e-mail address: _____



Flint Hills Community Radio is a member of the
National Federation of Community Broadcasters

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League Calendar

Keeping up with the League

Feb. 7 -- Public Forum: *A Comprehensive Energy Plan for Kansas: Meeting Future Needs without CO2*. 1:30 pm, Manhattan Public Library Auditorium.

Feb. 10 -- Lunch with the League -- Flint Hills Community Radio -- noon to 1:00 pm, Manhattan Public Library Auditorium, 629 Poyntz Ave.

Feb. 17 -- Manhattan/Riley County League Board meeting, 7:00 pm, Bluestem Bistro.

Feb. 24 -- Brown Bag Lunch -- Vision 2025 Update, presenter: Linda Morse, noon to 1:00 pm, Riley County Office Building, second floor meeting room, 110 Courthouse Plaza.

March 8 -- Candidates forum for City Commission candidates, 3:00 p.m., Denison Avenue Fire Station.

March 10 -- Lunch with the League, noon to 1:00 pm, Manhattan Public Library Auditorium, 629 Poyntz.

March 17 -- Manhattan/Riley County League Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Bluestem Bistro

March 19 - 2009 Day at the Capitol, Topeka

March 24 -- Brown Bag Lunch, National Popular Vote LWVUS Study, noon to 1:00 pm, County Office Building, second floor meeting room, 110 Courthouse Plaza.

April 14 -- **LWV MRC Annual Meeting** -- 6:00 - 9:00 pm, Goldon Wok Restaurant, Village Plaza, 3003 Anderson Ave.

May 2 - Kansas League of Women Voters Convention, Great Bend