



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Manhattan/Riley County

PO Box 834, Manhattan, KS 66505; E-mail: lww.manhattanks@gmail.com; Website: lww.manhattanks.org

President's Message

Gearing up for April's Happenings

By Karen Mayse

We've had some tantalizingly warm days at the end of February to remind us that March and April are on the horizon. These two months are arguably among the busiest on the League calendar, starting with a City Commission Candidates forum on Sunday, March 8, 3 p.m., at the fire station at the corner of Denison and Kimball Avenues. Since there are only enough USD 383 school board candidates needed to fill the open positions, we have invited these candidates to send us replies to a Voter's Guide. All candidates' replies will appear on the League's web site at:

<http://lww.manhattanks.org/votersguide>
Please check this web page during the election to become familiar with these candidates.

We are excited to welcome Assistant City Manager Lauren Palmer and City Building Official Brad Claussen to the March 10 Lunch With League, noon to 1 p.m. at the Manhattan Public Library. Our topic is rental inspections, part of a series of opportunities to study this issue. During program planning, League members reaffirmed their desire to continue with this study, so expect to see more on this topic.

Our local League has been following the National Popular Vote for more than a year, so when the LWVK and then the LWVUS began to focus on this issue, local League members became energized to participate in the LWVUS study. Within this Voter you will find the consensus questions to be explored at the March 24 Brown Bag meeting, noon to 1 p.m. at the Manhattan Public Library. Please note that we are changing from the usual Brown Bag meeting location because advance voting will be taking place at the county office building. All LWVUS background papers for this study may be downloaded from the League's home page in

PDF at <http://lww.manhattanks.org>. Please call me at 776-1637 if you'd prefer to receive these papers in printed form, and I will mail them to you prior to the meeting.

March is also when the League begins accepting nominations for the Edith Stunkel Good Government Award. You will find the criteria and a nomination form in this issue of the Voter. Please think about the people in our community who fit the description in the criteria and nominate someone for this award. The date and location for the presentation event will be announced in April.

The Stella Harris Scholarship committee for the past several months has been publicizing this scholarship and encouraging students to apply by the March 15 deadline. My thanks go to Committee Chairman Barbara Rees and committee members Kristan Corwin, Marjory Mortvedt and Nancy Twiss. We appreciate the strong support from people in the education community who've helped us publicize the scholarship, particularly Suzanne Lueker, K-State Director of Non-traditional Students.

Many of these activities lead up to our Annual Meeting occurring Tuesday, April 14 at the Golden Wok restaurant in Plaza West shopping center (formerly known as Village Plaza). Our guest speaker is Lewis Diuguid whose talk is titled "How the Media Affects Our Democracy and Citizen Participation in Government." Buffet dinner will be 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., our guest speaker will speak from 6:30 to 7 p.m. and our meeting will be 7 to 9 p.m. Please see the detailed agenda and meeting materials that will be sent to all League members. This should be an enchanting evening, and I look forward to seeing all of you there.

The National Popular Vote Compact

Background:

The League has a long-standing position in support of the direct election of the president by popular vote. Now, League members have the opportunity to consider whether to support the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) as a viable process to achieve that result. The NPV Compact would avoid the need for a constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College (EC), and would assure that the individual receiving the most votes would become president.

The NPV Compact proposal uses the mechanism of the EC. States that legislatively enact the NPV Compact would agree that their state electors would vote for the individual that received the most votes nationwide. Thus, the popular vote count from all 50 states and the District of Columbia would be added together. State elections officials in all states participating would award their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives the largest number of popular votes.

This alternative method of assigning a state's EC votes would take effect only when enacted by states collectively possessing a majority of the electoral votes. This 270-vote threshold also corresponds essentially to states representing a majority of the people of the United States.

The plan includes procedural provisions to help assure smooth functioning of the agreement – conditions that deal with states deciding to withdraw from the Compact at the last moment, enforcement issues and recounts. Currently four states have passed legislation to enact the NPV Compact.

There are pros and cons to this plan, which are discussed in full in papers prepared for the LWVUS. League members can learn more about the plan from these sources and consider its ramifications at our consensus meeting on March 24, noon to 1 p.m. at the Manhattan Public Library. Be sure to participate! Who better than the League to be ready to speak to this good-government issue?

To prepare for the consensus meeting, please read the complete versions of study papers by the LWVUS National Popular Voter Compact Study Committee that are available in PDF format on the LWV MRC web site at <http://lww.manhattanks.org>

National Popular Vote Consensus Questions

Amending the Constitution

1. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.
 - a. Action to alter a basic element of the Constitutional framework, which is achievable by amendment to the Constitution, should be accomplished by amendment to the Constitution.
 - b. Action by states through a compact process is an acceptable way to alter the method for electing the President and Vice-President.
 - c. The group could not reach consensus.

2. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.
 - a. Because a compact has never before been used to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the chance that it might set a precedent for the future leads to the conclusion that it is better that the League continue to work for an amendment to the Constitution to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College.
 - b. Despite the novelty of the use of the compact approach to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the League should support the NPV Compact as a way of achieving an important goal.
 - c. The group could not reach consensus.

National Popular Vote Consensus Questions, continued...

Congressional Consent

3. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.
- a. The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is not of sufficient concern to block the implementation of the plan.
 - b. The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is sufficient to conclude that the plan should not be implemented without obtaining such consent.
 - c. The group could not reach consensus.

Enforcement

4. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.
- a. The NPV Compact contains sufficient enforcement provisions to assure smooth operation of the plan.
 - b. Although it is not possible to determine whether the enforcement provisions will be sufficient to assure smooth operation of the plan, the plan should be passed anyway
 - c. Enforcement of the plan is likely to add uncertainty and bring the courts into the presidential election in ways that raise substantial concerns.
 - d. The lack of adequate enforcement provisions is sufficient to conclude that the NPV is not a viable plan.
 - e. The group could not reach consensus.

Uniformity

5. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.
- a. The uniformity of voting systems is more important to American democracy than the possibility that the NPV Compact can be adopted.
 - b. The NPV Compact is more important than uniformity of voting systems because it would succeed in achieving the popular election of the President.
 - c. The group could not reach consensus.

Popular Election of the President

6. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.
- a. It is more important to achieve the goal of national popular election of the President than it is to achieve the goal of abolition of the electoral college.
 - b. It is more important to amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College than it is to achieve the goal of popular election of the President by alternative methods, such as the NPV Compact.
 - c. The group could not reach consensus.

Achievability

7. Which statements reflect the views of the group?
- a. The NPV Compact will have problems being passed because of the need for congressional consideration and the need for action by so many states.
Agree Disagree No Consensus
 - b. A constitutional amendment to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College will continue to have problems being passed.
Agree Disagree No Consensus

Additional *Background Papers* (pro and con) as well as other related information is available that the [League US](http://League.US) website.

Observer Reports:

USD 383 School Board

Kathy Dzewaltowski, Observer

January 14, 2009

This was a special meeting of the board to fine tune the details of “request for qualifications” for the positions of professional lead architectural services, program management services and construction project manager for beginning the work on facilities as outlined in the recent successful bond election.

Terms agreed upon include language that will not allow the architectural services and program management services to have other roles in the project.

January 21, 2009

Information about the governor’s proposed changes in K-12 funding was provided to the Board at this regularly scheduled meeting. The base state aid per pupil is the primary reduction, with additional reductions in funding for special education, driver’s education, and professional development. The governor’s proposal will result in a decrease of \$157,279 for 2008-09 for USD 383, and a decrease of \$521,669 for the 2009-10 school year. Dr. Bob Shannon, Superintendent, will bring to the next meeting ideas for discussion regarding budget reduction.

Preliminary plans for elementary summer school reflect a reduction of \$50,000 due to decreased state aid. Students in grades K-6 have been required to attend summer school if they performed poorly on reading and math achievement tests.

The revised plan due to decreased budget will require grades K-3 who score in the 10th percentile or below in reading and math to attend and students in grades 4-6

who score in the 10th percentile or below in math must attend. Academic enrichment will be offered at only one site.

February 4, 2009

The district is anticipating a reduction of \$590,000 in state funding for the remainder of the fiscal year (June 30). Positions open because of retirement or resignation will be reviewed carefully before being filled for next year.

The Board reviewed qualifications for the applicants for program management, lead architect and construction manager for the district construction projects. After discussion the list was reduced to two firms each for program management and lead architect services. Candidates will be interviewed soon with a possibility of having a contract negotiated by February 25. 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.

City Commission

Barbara Withee, Observer

February 3, 2009

Commission approved the final plat for the Tecumseh Lofts at 2005-2011 Tecumseh Road and the final plat of Cedar Glen Addition, Unit 2 near the intersection of Kimball Avenue and Little Kitten Avenue.

Recent Board appointments were approved:

Special Alcohol Funds Advisory Committee –
Camelia Owens, Larry Brockson, Julie Voelker and Penny Peirce.

A motion to authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute a one year audit contract with the firm of Varney & Associates of Manhattan and the extension of annual renewals to this contract for a four year period of time passed 5-0.

February 10, 2009

This work session was devoted to a discussion of the Animal Shelter and animal control update and the status of a dog park. It was well addressed in the Manhattan Mercury the following day.

Riley County Commission

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

January 26 – The commissioners stressed the need for strong oversight of construction on the addition to the Law Enforcement Center. They asked County Engineer Hobson to spell out critical issues to be addressed in the contract.

Museum Director Cheryl Collins announced a Kansas Day open house at the Goodnow House and the County Museum on January 29 to celebrate the 148th birthday of Kansas. KSU Vet Med students assured that Sadie, the Goodnow's famous roving cow, will make her appearance.

Court Administrator Becky Topliff updated the commission on the district court's caseload for January 2008. While total filings were down from 2007, criminal cases increased, with felonies up 26 and misdemeanors down 27. Domestic cases involving stalking and protection from abuse were up considerably and can be time-consuming for the courts. There appears to be no increase in mortgage foreclosures such as much of the rest of the country is experiencing.

CASA Director Jayme Morris-Hardeman said her program is very much in need of volunteers. The number of children needing advocates is causing some situations where one volunteer serves two children. In January the new child advocacy center, which provides a non-threatening environment for interviews in suspected abuse cases, served six children – all from Ft. Riley.

County Clerk Vargo noted that February 16 is the deadline for voter registration for the April 7 school district and city elections.

County Counselor Holeman reported receiving an attorney general's opinion that transient guest housing on Ft. Riley is taxable. This might also affect the housing built by Picerne. Commissioner Johnson observed that any such determination must be made by the State Board of Tax Appeals – not Geary and Riley Counties.

Holeman reviewed Senator Reitz' proposed bill on city-county consolidation and asked for reaction. The bill departs from existing law, as it involves the actual consolidation of governmental entities rather than merging the functions of government. He will report to Senator Reitz that the commission does not support the proposed city-county consolidation legislation, as there are a number of unanswered questions in the current version.

The estimated 2008 ending cash balance for the county is \$3,535,566 – lower than in previous years.

January 29 – Following several personnel actions, the commission approved 77 reductions in the county tax roll.

County Engineer Leon Hobson discussed the township advisory board's recommendations for requirements involving minimum maintenance roads. Such roads generally are used for field access and may involve only one or two landowners but are considered public roads. As such they must be kept open. State law requires that signs be posted indicating they are minimum maintenance roads and that drivers travel at their own risk.

Commissioners approved a preliminary contract with McMillan Architects to oversee construction at the law enforcement center expansion. Bruce McMillan said two people will be assigned to inspect building activities over the 55 weeks estimated to complete construction. The contract will be amended after review by the county attorney.

Hobson asked for input from the commissioners regarding an upcoming meeting to discuss the effect the new NBAF facility might have on city and county roads. Staff anticipates new building construction on Denison from Kimball to Marlatt. McCulloh mentioned the importance of ensuring that waste disposal and water treatment be handled adequately by NBAF. The addition of approximately 1,500 jobs bringing employees and families will affect residential areas heavily.

Hobson expressed optimism for a potential large increase in federal funds for Kansas for transportation. The state has presented a list of shovel-ready projects totaling \$1 billion – funds which could be shared with local governments. If bills are approved and signed into law, awards from states to local governments would be made quickly with the requirement that construction be ready to get underway. He hoped K-18 might be among the projects approved.

February 2 – The agenda included vehicle purchases, approval of easements, bidding procedures, a report on the volunteer income tax assistance program, and surfacing for county roads.

February 9 – Cheryl Collins, Director of the Riley County Historical Museum, introduced Ron Wilson, owner of the Lazy-T Ranch, whose barn has now been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The ranch is open for agritourism activities such as hayrack rides, chuck wagon suppers, farm animal petting, and

Continued on next page....

County Commission continued....

Western entertainment. Tours are available by appointment at 785-539-7899 or www.lazytranch.org.

Heather Jager, Community Corrections Juvenile Division, reported data on services provided and individuals served. Sandi Harper, reporting for adult community corrections, cited 581 felony cases and 231 intensive supervision cases, of which 75 involved mandatory drug treatment.

Pat Collins, Director of Emergency Services, was commended for his admirable coordination of the clearing, rescue, and follow-up after the June 11 tornado. Earlier, he had received the Person of the Year Award from the Chamber of Commerce at their annual meeting.

February 12 – Commissioners discussed recent damage to the fire safety training vehicle, asking why it had not been housed in one of the buildings at the new county shop site.

Clancy Holeman, County Counselor, updated commissioners on the status of legislation.

Anne Smith, ATA bus service owner, discussed the status of a grant application for financial support and asked for the commission's continued approval of that initiative.

After lengthy discussion of the ramifications and consequences of HB 2169, which pertains to use of land adjoining Ft. Riley, commissioners agreed to ask the legislature to oppose the bill. Representatives from rural areas of the county opposed the bill as well. In later discussion with John Armbrust, Director of the Governor's Military Council, it was concluded that the generic DOD policy dealing with "encroachment" adjacent to military installations does not deal with the particularities of this area.

The commission agreed that, to cover maintenance costs at the police station, clear definitions are needed as between facilities and equipment, as the former is a county budget item, while the latter is a police department expense.

Johnette Shepek, Budget and Finance Officer, presented the revised policy draft for the use of departmental purchase cards, which function as credit cards. Currently there is only one card per department, which creates a hardship for those traveling on county business. The commission reviewed procedures designed to prevent misuse.

Leon Hobson led a discussion of four options for covering the \$340,000 cost of the imminent replacement of the boiler and cooling tower in the courthouse, none of which is particularly favorable. There is a preference for self-financing \$200,000 of the total, with the remainder taken from the capital improvement account.

February 19 – Eileen King, County Treasurer, told the commission that the county will see a reduction in state funds for the year, with a cut totaling about \$245,000 and likely more later.

Debbie Register, Register of Deeds, reported that revenue is down by only about \$500. Also, she is reviewing disaster procedures with her staff.

There was discussion of property tax rates for low income housing. A new method directs the appraiser to tax at market value, whereas the previous rate was at about 50% of that for comparable rental property. The properties affected were built with tax credit financing. The change in appraisal rates is based on a 2007 ruling by the Kansas Court of Tax Appeals, and it is possible that the legislature could provide relief.

Kearns noted that low income housing is a social issue and that there is a benefit from people living here and supporting the community with their jobs, sales tax, etc. Appraiser Greg McHenry explained that supply and demand determine rents and values.

Anne Smith, aTa bus director, discussed the transit plan which the city will take over, and she hopes that some stimulus funding will be forthcoming. Five busses would be desirable, and setting the routes is most important.

Extension Agent Ginny Barnard told of the expanded food and nutrition program now going on at the Job Corps, teaching nutrition and healthy eating for adults and children, stretching food dollars, food safety, and becoming more self-sufficient.

February 23 – Treasurer Eileen King estimates that FY2009 revenue will be down by about \$510,000, including more than \$170,000 in lowered ad valorem tax receipts and a \$260,000 decrease in investment income.

The commissioners discussed how much Mercy Hospital charges the county for rape kit services. Apparently the kits are provided free to hospitals by the KBI. The \$611 billed to the county is for staff time and facility use.

County Engineer Leon Hobson reported that excavation work is expected to get underway on the Law Enforcement Training Center expansion in mid-March. He has been impressed with the contractor's preliminary work so far.

County Appraiser Greg McHenry told of the continuing rise in property values in the county. Property data can be accessed through the county's website www.rileycountyks.gov/parcel. Sales data can be found there, but is accessible to the general public only during the appeals sign-up period, which runs February 13 to March 16. To access individual properties' sales information on-line, individuals may go to E-Gov Services>On-line Appraisal Data and log in.

Manhattan Board of Zoning Appeals

Barbara Withee, Observer.

January 14, 2009

402 North Bluemont: A request to allow the owner, the City of Manhattan, an extension of 180 days to move a house at this location and to allow a reduction in the required setback and lot area. This property is in an R-2, two family residential district with traditional neighborhood overlay. The request was approved 4-0 (Calvin Emig was absent).

1127 Pomeroy: Applicant William McNally and Heritage Builders representative Ronald Dechant were present to request approval for a variance in lot depth from 100 feet to 90 feet in order to build a one family house at 1127 Pomeroy. This is in the Coronado Addition which was platted in 1947 with no minimum standards. In 1969 the newly adopted zoning regulations designated this area R-1 Single Family Residence with 100 feet lot depth required. Only one of the 28 lots within the Coronado Addition meets or exceeds the current standards. Under more recent

changes in zoning the Coronado Addition is zoned for single-family, two-family and multiple-family dwellings.

The single family house that stood on the site was damaged by fire in 2007 and demolished in late 2008. Present zoning regulations state that under this circumstance such improvement shall not be restored unless it shall thereafter conform to the regulations for the former R-1 zoning. There is no way that additional lot length can be acquired so the owner must request a variance.

A motion was made to allow the variance for a single family residence with several conditions, two of which were stated because of the tendency for owners in the area to rent to more than 4 unrelated individuals. The conditions include, (1) no more than four (4) unrelated people shall live in the proposed single family dwelling and (2) the property owner shall allow City Administration to inspect the property for compliance with this regulation relating to the number of permitted occupants if the city receives information of a possible violation of the regulation.

The motion passed 4-0.

Manhattan Urban Area Planning Board

Barbara Withee, Observer

January 22, 2009

Final approval was granted to Kail Katzenmeier (Capstone Development) to build the Tecumseh Lofts at 2005 and 2011 Tecumseh road.

A portion of the Stone Pointe Residential planned unit development was approved for rezoning to allow Tim Schultz (Stone Crest Land Company) to build one four family townhome and common area as a part of the single family residential district located along Scenic Drive and north of Stone Crest Drive. Motion to approve passed 5-0.

Questions continue to be asked of staff regarding reduction of the speed limit along scenic drive considering all of the newly developed areas on both sides of Scenic Drive. Staff told the board that speed limits are based on required engineering standards and must be followed.

The annual review of the comprehensive plan followed. No comments were received as the plan has been reviewed by other boards and the public with one

exception. The City Commission raised the following questions:

1. should Scenic Drive be protected from further development?
2. should the City best move east and/or south?
3. regarding the area west of KSU between College Heights Road and Claffin Road, would a change from using the PUD, as now is the case, to using the Multi-family Redevelopment Overlay better guide development in the area (the issue arose in discussions over the Tecumseh Lofts approved earlier).

Planning board members raised the following issues:

1. storm water issues.
2. parking and drainage west of the campus.
3. need for city to remain proactive on planning issues surrounding the NBAF project.
4. coordination with school district, county and Ft. Riley in planning for growth.
5. continue to address Manhattan's transportation issues.

Continued on the next page...

**Manhattan Urban Area Planning Board,
continued...****February 2, 2009**

Sonic Restaurant Plan Approval: The new Sonic restaurant plan was approved and will be located in the Westport South Commercial PUD located south of Westport Drive and Anderson Avenue. (Applicant: D. L. Rogers Companies/Owner: West Anderson Partners. LLC). Walgreen West plans for this development area were approved previously and construction has begun.

The Planning Board reviewed the 2010-2015 Capital Improvements Program. Previous projects identified included Aggieville parking garage (2010) and downtown public parking (2010). Eric Cattell, planner, said that downtown parking is being address through the current Downtown Redevelopment Project and that the Aggieville-Campus Edge Plan identifies two parking garages in Aggieville.

A motion passed to recommend removing these two projects from the CIP but keeping the annual Sidewalk Improvement Fund in the document.

Riley County - Manhattan Board of Health**Sue Cohen, Observer****January 29, 2009**

This meeting was the annual reorganization of the Board. Dr. Paul Hesse from the Health Department at Fort Riley replaced Tim Bagby who completed five years as a board member and treasurer. Karen McCulloh replaced Bob Newsome as the County Commission representative. Dr. Paul Stagner was re-elected as chair and Brady Burton as vice-chair. The newly elected treasurer is Doug Kinney.

City appointed board members are: Paul Benne, Dr. Paul Stagner, Sandra Tabor, Doug Kinney and Commissioner Bob Strawn. County appointed

members are Sharolyn Jackson, Brady Burton, Dr. Matt Floersch, Dr. Derek Mosier, Katie Thompson-Laswell and Commissioner Karen McCulloh.

Charles Murphy, Administrator, reported that the Health Department has produced a brochure for the No Smoking Ordinance and has been working on public education concerning the ordinance. Charitable care write offs, adjustments to charges for contractual disallowance and for sliding scale adjustments for 2008 amounted to \$40,659.

Assistant Administrator, Suzanne Kufahl, reported that the state "Smart Start" funds are likely to be cut. Because the year is about half over this will cause difficulty with continuing the program.

Save the Date!**Manhattan/Riley County League Annual Meeting****Tuesday April 14****Featuring: Lewis Diuguid, Kansas City Star****"How the Media Affects Our Democracy and Citizen
Participation in Government"**

Golden Wok Restaurant, Meal 5:30 pm; Speaker 6:30 pm; Annual Meeting 7:00 pm



Lewis Diuguid is vice president for community resources at The Kansas City Star. He has been with the newspaper since 1977 after graduating from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is a certified diversity facilitator with the Newspaper Association of America and has been involved with The Star's diversity initiative since it began in 1993. He has conducted diversity workshops for schools, colleges, businesses and community groups. He is the author of the 2004 book *A Teacher's Cry: Expose the Truth About Education Today* and the 2007 book, *Discovering the Real*

Edith Stunkle Good Government Award 2009

The League of Women Voters of Manhattan/Riley County is now accepting nominations for the 2009 Edith L. Stunkel Good Government Award. Please nominate a person you or your organization believes should be recognized for voluntary contributions to our community as described below. League members and non-League members alike may submit nominations.

About the Award

This award honors the efforts of long-time League member and public servant Edith Stunkel to involve her fellow citizens in government. She labored tirelessly to create an atmosphere in our community where public input and public process are highly valued and citizen involvement is expected, principles that are integral to the League's mission and philosophy.

Founded by activists who secured voting rights for women, the League of Women Voters has always promoted the values and processes of representative government. Protecting and enhancing voting rights for all Americans, assuring opportunities for citizen participation, working for open, accountable, representative and responsive government at every level – all reflect the deeply held convictions of the League.

Who is Eligible

The nominee must be a current resident of Riley County over age 18 who has devoted considerable time and energy to successfully promoting better government and whose leadership has advanced human dignity or improved the quality of life for the community. The nominee should be an individual who has shown creativity, persistence, and overall leadership, which has expanded our understanding and awareness of the importance of good citizenship, good government and our sense of community.

The individual – whether an elected or appointed official or volunteer – typically is noted for writing, speaking, organizing support for government or advising on effective ways to deliver services to the public. This could be accomplished in a variety of ways such as attempting to increase citizen participation in government; educating the public about an issue; working towards more open government; or involvement in ways that represent principles leading to better decision-making.

Current League board members and those who have served on the League board within the past year are not eligible to receive the award.

Sending a Nomination

Please complete a nomination form and return it no later than May 1, 2009 as follows:

By e-mail: Send to League President Karen Mayse at lww.manhattanks@gmail.com

By mail to: Edith L. Stunkel Good Government Award
League of Women Voters
P.O. Box 835
Manhattan, KS 66505

League of Women Voters of Manhattan/Riley County

**EDITH L. STUNKEL
GOOD GOVERNMENT AWARD**

NOMINATION FORM

I would like to nominate the following person:

NOMINEE	
Name:	
Title/Organization (if applicable):	
Address:	
Work Phone:	
Home Phone:	
Email Address:	

In the area provided below, please explain why you believe this nominee should be considered for the Edith L. Stunkel Good Government Award. Five hundred (500) word limit. Additional pages may be attached if more space is required to complete your nomination.

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NOMINATOR	
Your Name:	
Title/Organization (if applicable):	
Address:	
Work Phone:	
Home Phone:	
Email Address:	

This form may be copied if you wish to make more than one nomination. Please return this form and any accompanying documents as follows:

By e-mail: to League President Karen Mayse at lvw.manhattanks@gmail.com

By mail: must be postmarked no later than May 1, 2009 to:

**Edith L. Stunkel Good Government Award
League of Women Voters
P.O. Box 835
Manhattan, KS 66505**

An acknowledgement of receipt of nominations will be sent either by mail or e-mail to the nominee and nominator.

International Women's Day - March 8

Women and men united to end violence against women and girls

Each year around the world, International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8. Hundreds of events occur not just on this day but throughout March to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women.

Andrea Hopkins reported for Reuters earlier in February that First Lady Michelle Obama said "helping working women balance career and family" will be one of her policy interests while her husband is president.

Following are some facts about working mothers and workplace policy in the United States, from official U.S. sources and academic studies:

* The United States is one of only four countries which does not have some form of paid leave for new mothers. The others are Papua New Guinea, Swaziland and Liberia.

* Under U.S. federal law, workers in companies with at least 50 employees can take six weeks unpaid leave after giving birth. Smaller companies are not required to offer any maternity leave, even unpaid.

* There are 82.8 million mothers in the United States; 72 percent of mothers are in the labor force.

* 81 percent of U.S. women aged 40 to 44 are mothers, down from 90 percent in 1976.

* Mothers are 79 percent less likely to be hired as non-mothers with identical resumes.

Women in politics...

Although women make up 51 percent of the world's population, they hold only 16 percent of parliamentary and congressional seats worldwide.

Their presence in corporate and civic leadership positions remains limited by entrenched gender bias. Women's civic and political participation is essential to the achievement of open and democratic societies.

As economies across the globe have become more interconnected than ever, women's increased participation in the labor force outside the home has permitted families and countries to adapt and compete in the world economy.

Women are essential to economic development in every sense.

Yet, despite the fact that women constitute approximately half the population, women constitute a much smaller percentage of political representation in democracies across the world.

In response, many countries have adopted laws to guarantee a certain level of representation in their legislatures, either by reserving seats in the legislatures for women, or by requiring parties to present a certain percentage of women candidates.

According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) statistics, from 1945 to 1995 the percentage of women MPs worldwide has increased four-fold.

There are more women in government today than ever before but their numbers are not enough to change public policy and resource allocation patterns which are instrumental in bringing real benefits to women.

But still political parties often fail to adequately respond to significant barriers encountered by women standing for parliament.

These barriers have been summed up as the "four C's" of confidence, culture, childcare and cash.

SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau; The Institute for Health and Social Policy at McGill University; Shelley Correll, Stephen Benard & In Paik, [Getting a Job: Is there a Motherhood Penalty](#), 112 *The American Journal of Sociology* 1297 (2007); IWD's 2009 Webpage, <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

**League of Women Voters
Candidate Forum**

Sunday 8 March 2009

**Fire Station, Denison and Kimball
3:00 pm**



MANHATTAN/RILEY COUNTY
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
PO Box 834, Manhattan KS 66505
e-mail: lww.manhattanks@gmail.com
web site: <http://lww.manhattanks.org>

League Calendar

Keeping up with the League

March 8 - Candidates Forum, Fire Station 3:00 – 5:30 pm

March 10 - LWL, Lauren Palmer and Brad Claussen, Rental Inspections. Manhattan Public Library, noon to 1:00 pm

March 17 - Board Meeting, President's house, 3340 Newbury Street, 7:00 -9:00 pm

March 19 - LWVK Day at the Capitol

March 24 - BBL, National Popular Vote LWVUS Study, **Manhatan Public Library**, noon to 1:00 pm
(note change from regular location)

March 24 - Advance Voting begins for municipal elections

April 7 - Election Day

April 14 - **Annual Meeting, 5:30 to 9 p.m., Golden Wok restaurant, Village Plaza Shopping Center**

April 21 - Board Meeting (location to be announced)

April 28 - Brown Bag Lunch - local topics

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